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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you support the idea of stopping future automatic increases in the CNMI's minimum wage?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

In Memorian

The late *Saipan Tribune* publisher John "JP" Pangelinan will be buried in Culver City, California.

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Deadly Twisters

At least 55 people were killed and hundreds injured Tuesday and Wednesday by dozens of tornadoes.

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Day of Hearts

Tony Roma's and Capricciosa are making the day of hearts extra special.

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Plane crash victim files suit vs Taga Air. PAGE 2

Shanghai-Guam charter arrives tomorrow. PAGE 9

NMC accreditation in peril

College may have to shut down in 6 months

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Northern Marianas College is close to losing its accreditation and may have to shut down in six months, it was disclosed yesterday.

The college has been ordered to show cause why its accreditation should not be withdrawn, according to the website of the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges.

The commission's Western Association of Schools and Colleges, or WASC, took the action against NMC because the college still has not addressed concerns previously raised by the commission.

NMC has been on probation since February 2007.

College officials reportedly received the show-cause order on Wednesday. NMC college president Carmen Fernandez declined to make any comments yesterday. She said that few people at the college have been informed about the news.

The NMC Board of Regents

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CHINESE NEW YEAR JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Saipan's lion dancers perform a traditional lion dance presentation at the lobby of Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan yesterday in celebration of the Chinese New Year or Spring festival, which marks the first day of the Chinese year 4706 -"The Year of the Rat". The dance is a symbolic ritual to usher in the Lunar New Year as well as to bring good luck and drive away bad spirits from the premises.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Northern Marianas College president Carmen Fernandez and members of the NMC Board of Regents gather inside the BOR conference room during yesterday's committee meeting.

'Senate's choice reeks of nepotism'

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

Reyes

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios says the House of Representatives will never agree to the Senate's choice for director of the Legislature Bureau because it reeks of nepotism.

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Tinian mayor pleads for jobs of employees

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

Tinian Mayor Jose P. San Nicolas has asked lawmakers for a budget that is $1.7 million bigger than what the governor proposes for the municipality.

San Nicolas

According to San Nicolas, a budget of $8.5 million will allow Tinian to "make ends meet" without resorting to termination of employees.

Under the governor's budget proposal, Tinian will get $6.8 million in fiscal year 2008. This is down from Tinian's final funding of $9.4 million last fiscal year, and requires the termination of 129 employees on Tinian.

"I would rather continue the austerity Fridays, no holiday pay, reduce hours, or cut salaries rather than

See TINIAN on Page 4

Labor now collects 19 fees

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Department of Labor has implemented two new fees effective Monday, bringing to 19 the total number of fees it collects from the public.

According to a public notice posted by Labor's Division of Administrative Services at Labor offices, all fees are nonrefundable and nontransferable.

Saipan Tribune inquired for more information about the notice yesterday, but Labor Administrative Division director

See LABOR on Page 4

Local

Plane crash victim files suit vs Taga Air

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

One of the seven occupants of a Piper Cherokee aircraft who were injured when the plane crashed in Upper Dandan, Saipan in 2006 filed a lawsuit in federal court yesterday.

Patrick James Timmerman sued the Taga Air Charter Services Inc., Hong Kong Entertainment (Overseas) Investment Ltd., Tinian Dynasty Hotel Inc. and 100 unnamed co-defendants for alleged negligence.

Timmerman's wife, Maria Purley Agcaoili Timmerman, and their minor son Joshua Patrick, also joined the lawsuit as co-plaintiffs.

The three, through counsel William M. Fitzgerald, asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to order the defendants to pay them damages.

Saipan Tribune tried to get the side of the defendants, but their lawyer, G. Anthony Long, said he has not seen the complaint yet.

Taga Air Charter was the registered owner and operator of the Piper Cherokee aircraft.

Fitzgerald said Taga Air, Dynasty Hotel and Hong Kong Entertainment acted as each other's agents with respect to the conduct alleged in this complaint.

Fitzgerald said that, Patrick Timmerman was a passenger on the Piper Cherokee aircraft when it crashed on Aug. 11, 2006 at 2:15am, while attempting to take off from Runway 07 at Saipan International Airport bound for Tinian.

The aircraft got airborne briefly, but shortly crashed to the ground one-quarter mile from the departure end of the runway, injuring all seven occupants, including Patrick Timmerman.

Fitzgerald said that Patrick Timmerman suffered severe and permanent injuries. He alleged that the crash, injuries, and resulting damage were caused by the defendants' negligence.

He said the defendants "failed to warn, instruct, advise, educate and train persons using, maintaining, inspecting and or operating the aircraft, regarding significant dangers."

The lawyer said the defendants also failed to follow, among other things, proper safety and emergency procedures on the aircraft.

Due to Patrick Timmerman's injuries, Fitzgerald said the wife, Maria, "has been deprived of [Patrick Timmerman's] care, consideration, companionship, aid and society and the pleasure and assistance."

When the crash happened, their son, Joshua, was less than one month old.

"Due to Patrick's injuries, Patrick has not been able to perform his normal duties as father and provider and afford Joshua the society afforded him before Patrick's injuries," the lawyer added.

The seven-seater plane crashed at a grassy farm lot while en route to Tinian. All seven passengers, including the pilot, were seriously injured.

The Federal Aviation Administration and National Transportation Safety Bureau investigated the matter. No information was released to the media as to the cause of the crash.

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Claims vs estate of late Summer Holiday owner denied

The Superior Court has issued a ruling in the claims against the estate of the late owner of Summer Holiday Hotel and the Summer Holiday Suites in Garapan.

Associate Judge Juan T. Lizama denied Camacho Investment Corp.'s claim of $25,000 from the Vicente Cabrera Camacho estate for each CIC shareholder. Lizama also denied CIC's claim for a Mitsubishi Mirage car.

The judge, however, granted CIC's claim for unpaid services from 1998 to 2005 in the amount of $650 per month for 89.5 months, which equals to $58,175 plus 12 percent prejudgment interest and 9 percent post-judgment interest.

Vicente C. Camacho was the president and chief executive officer of CIC from its inception until the time of his death.

CIC owned and operated the Summer Holiday Hotel in Garapan. In 1993, Camacho acquired an additional hotel located close to Summer Holiday Hotel and he named it Summer Holiday Suites.

During his tenure as president and CEO, Camacho contracted with CIC to perform various services for the Summer Holiday Suites, a hotel that he solely owned and not CIC. Camacho paid CIC $650 per month from 1994 until Dec. 31, 1997 for these services.

On Jan. 1, 1998, Camacho ceased paying CIC for services rendered to Summer Holiday Suites.

At a board meeting, Camacho stated to some of the CIC shareholders that upon his death each of the shareholders would receive a sum of $25,000.

In 2000, the CIC board of directors authorized Camacho to purchase a Mitsubishi Mirage four-door sedan. The car was registered to Camacho. The monthly payments for the car were paid out of CIC's corporate funds. A life insurance policy was taken out in Camacho's name in the amount of $300,000. CIC was listed as the beneficiary of this policy and paid the monthly premiums.

After Camacho's death the proceeds from the policy were used to satisfy a debt of CIC, with the remaining balance returned to CIC. CIC used these proceeds to pay off a number of outstanding debts owed.

CIC is now claiming against the heirs of the estate for the $25,000 per shareholder promise that Camacho made.

CIC is also claiming for payment for monthly services rendered for Summer Holiday Suites between 1998-2005. CIC is also claiming ownership of the Mitsubishi Mirage.

On the claim for $25,000 per shareholder, Lizama said it is unreasonable to think that a $25,000 promise is a reasonable exchange for $650 a month.

Lizama said the enormity of the amount promised by Camacho should have alerted the shareholders that his claim was a bluff, as a witness testified.

"As an oral contract this claim must fail as there was no bargained for consideration and so the Camacho estate is not bound by Camacho's promise," the judge pointed out.

Lizama said Camacho was not in imminent death when he made the promise and so an oral will couldn't be made.

"Even if it could, the total value that could be received would be $5,000, which is far less than what the claimants have asked for," said Lizama, adding that the Camacho estate is not bound by an oral will.

He said the claimants stated they performed according to the promise by cleaning the Summer Holiday Suites for seven years without being paid.

Therefore the claimants relied on Camacho's $25,000 promise to their detriment and so the estate should be estopped from denying the $25,000 claim.

"The court finds this argument unpersuasive," Lizama said. He said while it is clear that claimants have suffered monetary loss for services rendered, they cannot claim for the $25,000.

"The appropriate claim to assert for this monetary loss is the monthly services reimbursement," he said.

Lizama pointed out that there is nothing in the document to suggest that Camacho intended to pay $25,000 in exchange for the $650 per month payment.

"The estate is not bound to pay the $25,000 claim because it fails the statute of frauds," he said.

On the car issue, Lizama said that due to insufficient proof that the car was intended for solely corporate purposes, the court must deny the claim for the Mitsubishi Mirage.

The estate does not have to grant the car to claimants as they have not provided enough documentary evidence to support their claim, he said.

On the monthly service issue, Lizama said he believes that it would be unjust to deny the claim.

"The court grants the claimants the reimbursement of the $650 per month for the services they performed for Camacho from 1998 to 2005 plus interest," he said. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Eucon donates Torah scroll to governor

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial now owns a page from a Bible manuscript.

Fitial received the ancient parchment from Eucon International College yesterday.

"We are giving this to the governor to show our support for him, and to try to encourage him to follow the 10 Commandments," said Eucon president Christian Wei.

Fitial said he will have the parchment displayed in the hall at the Governor's Office so people can see it.

The parchment is made of lambskin and contains Hebrew verses from the book of Deuteronomy (chapter 5 verses 7-21 and chapter 6 verses 4-5). It is from an authentic Sefer Torah scroll written in Poland in the 1800s, and retrieved from a *geniza*, or mausoleum for religious articles.

Eucon got the parchment from Gary Zimmerman, a Jewish Christian who is helping preserve the Jewish manuscripts as a way "to give honor and respect to the Jewish people."

Zimmerman visited Saipan last year and gave talks on Old Testament manuscripts and related topics.

Zimmerman's group, a foundation started by a Christian philanthropist, has acquired Old Testament manuscripts that were written in the 1300 and 1400.

"These are extremely old manuscripts. It's very difficult to find them. So we are showing them to more people as possible," Zimmerman said.

He said the foundation has acquired Old Testament manuscripts and other early Hebrew writing items worth some $300,000.

The group has sourced the manuscripts from Jewish people in Europe, Africa, and Middle East countries like Iraq and Israel. ***(Agnes E. Donato)***

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial receives the 200-year-old 10 Commandments manuscript from Eucon International College president Dr. Christian Wei during yesterday's turnover ceremony at the Governor's Office on Capital Hill.

Navy holds all-star game

SANTA RITA, Guam—The Navy Morale, Welfare and Recreation will host the Admiral's Cup All-Star Basketball Game today, Feb. 8, 6pm at the Charles King Gym on U.S. Naval Base Guam.

The friendly competition will feature the best performing athletes from teams who are participating in the Admiral's Cup basketball season.

The Arizona Cardinal Cheerleaders are scheduled to perform during half-time. The event is sponsored by Navy MWR and Armed Forces Entertainment.

The event is open to authorized MWR patrons. ***(PR)***

ERRATUM

In yesterday's article "Immunization clinic relocates to former Children's clinic," the Immunization Program director was named Mariana Santos. The correct name is Mariana C. Sablan. Also, the new immunization clinic at the Department of Public Health is only an additional site. The San Antonio clinic will remain open to serve the people of the CNMI.

NMC

From Page 1

was scheduled to meet Wednesday evening to discuss WASC's order. A meeting with NMC personnel is also expected to occur today.

A source said that NMC is given six months to comply with the commission's order. If the college fails to do this, WASC may terminate its accreditation.

Accreditation is important because it proves to the public that a college meets standards of quality, and allows students to access financial aid programs. In addition, many institutions look at accreditation when deciding whether to allow transfer of credits.

The source said that, in NMC's case, loss of accreditation could lead to closure of the college. NMC has reportedly been ordered to make preparations for closure during the six-month show cause period.

WASC officials are expected to visit the college in the next months.

NMC had been on "warning" status several times before. Last year, WASC elevated the sanction and placed the college on probation. Then acting college president Danny Wyatt said the probation sanction was handed down because of an accumulation of organizational problems dating back from 1990.

At the time, WASC said that the college has not made enough progress with regard to conducting regular program reviews. The commission also raised concern about the quick turnover of presidents and deans, which has been occurring since 2000.

The commission said the college should implement its employee evaluation program, and ensure a qualified board of regents that undergoes sufficient and ongoing training about their roles and responsibilities, especially with regard to the accreditation requirements.

LABOR

From Page 1

Rose Ada-Hocog was not in the office.

Labor Director Barry Hirshbein, however, stated that the fees are in the new Labor rules and regulations. Hirshbein refused to elaborate, saying he is beating a deadline.

"I'm under a very, very heavy deadline to complete a big project by 5 o'clock. I'm sorry I wish I could," the director explained.

Of the 19 fees, what is new is the certificate of good standing that was free before but now costs $100, according to a Labor official who requested not to be identified.

Another new fee is the processing of temporary work authorizations that costs $150 for six months, the official said. The processing of TWA used to cost $75 only and it was good for only three months.

The other fees are the following:

- application for an approved employment contract, $250;
- application for part-time casual employment, $40;
- request for contract amendment or change, $25;
- request for exemption (moratorium), $500;
- request for contract renewal, $250;
- request for approval of subcontracting—per person, $25;
- processing a transfer after administrative order, $250; and
- replacement or duplicate entry permit, $50.

Other fees include:

- Penalty fee or untimely renewal—per day up to 30 days, $5;
- Appeal of failure to timely renew entry permit, $100;
- Renewal of TWA, $50;
- Filing of labor complaint-per person, $20;
- Filing an appeal to the Secretary—per person, $25;
- Copying costs for documents, $.50;
- Transcript of labor hearing (tape only), $10;
- Expedited processing—in addition to application fee, $150; and
- Miscellaneous certifications, $25.

SENATE'S

From Page 1

Palacios said yesterday that the House leadership is "extremely reluctant to even consider the notion that Mrs. [Glenna] Reyes be appointed as LB director."

Reyes is currently the deputy director at the bureau and is the wife of Senate President Pete P. Reyes. The Senate wants her to head the bureau.

"The House leadership simply cannot summon support for Mrs. Reyes' appointment," Palacios said in a letter to Sen. Maria Pangelinan, who is representing the Senate in talks on the appointment of a new LB director.

"While it may be difficult for the Senate leadership to understand the obvious, we view the appointment of Mrs. Reyes as practically the same as, if not the functional equivalent of, appointing her husband the Senate president to the directorship," the speaker added.

According to Palacios, the potential problems that nepotism brings to the work place cannot be ignored.

"Employees are likely to engage in giving confidential information to their family and friends. Employees often try to influence people for their own political agenda. In the worst case, employees resort to behaviors such as intimidation, gossip, spying, and untruths in order to win at any cost. When conflict of interest issues come up such as those, rarely are situations dealt with objectively and fairly. That we are having this dispute illustrates this point exactly," he said.

Palacios also refuted Pangelinan's claim that the House leadership picked Edward Tenorio for the position with little or no regard to qualifications.

He noted that the House considered four potential candidates before making a final choice. "I am now left to wonder if the Senate leadership did likewise," he added.

The Senate insists that Reyes is the right person for the job because of her experience working at the bureau. She served as Reyes' staffer in the 14th Legislature, and was appointed to the position of LB deputy director shortly after the 15th Legislature came into office in 2006.

Edward Tenorio was the special assistant for management and budget during the Babauta administration.

TINIAN

From Page 1

termination," San Nicolas told the Legislature.

"I will be torn to witness so many people's lives living in pain by not having their basic necessities and possibly losing their lifetime investments on their house, car, land, etc. I humbly request you to save the livelihood of the 129 employees on Tinian as well as all those who are on the list for termination," he added.

Some 400 CNMI government employees were to be terminated effective Dec. 22, 2007 at the governor's order. Affected employees on Saipan have been given a 60-day reprieve, as the island's legislative delegation has provided $1.2 million to save the jobs of the employees.

Tinian employees have not been terminated either.

"With all due respect to the governor, I do not agree with such swift and drastic proposal. I'm fully aware of the current economic situation that we are facing. The reduction in collections from $200 million to $160 million is [a] reality and my administration has been reducing our expenditures since the day I took office," said San Nicolas.

According to the mayor, he reduced the workers' hours to seven a day. He also said he is "considering" a reduction in salary.

BOE chair vows to ensure accountability, transparency

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
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REPORTER

Board of Education chair Lucia Blanco-Maratita said that the board will be looking at ways to ensure accountability and transparency.

Speaking at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce meeting at the Palms Resort Saipan, Blanco-Maratita said the board will have to guard PSS assets against waste and be innovative in making more resources last longer, "so we can get more bang for our buck."

"We are accountable to our community for all that we do, that we stay the course for our educational goals, and that we are as efficient as possible. Yes, including travel costs" Blanco-Maratita said.

"We will surely look for ways to perhaps brings more trainers here so we can train more people for less and build our local capacity at the same time," she said.

She assured that decisions made by the board will be data driven and based on research.

"We will be working on ensuring that our budgets are performance-based; based on what the respective school's needs are to raise their student achievement and attain quality education for all our students," Blanco-Maratita said.

Blanco-Maratita concluded her speech with a call for collaboration. "Achieving the best education for the CNMI is possible only with the involvement of the community, with the efforts of our students, parents PSS staff, and that of our political, business, community and industry leaders."

CRIME OF THE WEEK

Armed robberies

Crime Stoppers is asking the community for information on the following armed robberies:

On Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2008, DPS received a report of an attempted armed robbery incident at Hong's Market located in San Vicente that involved two masked men armed with a baseball bat and knife. Both suspects fled on a white tinted sedan.

On Thursday, Jan. 24, 2008, police responded to an armed robbery incident that occurred at Banzai Cliff in Marpi. Two masked men were involved, and both were armed with a bat and knife. A third suspect was seen driving the getaway vehicle.

On Saturday, Jan. 26, 2008, police were dispatched to Chalan Piao to respond to a report of an armed robbery near the Clean Laundry establishment. This crime involved two masked men. One of the suspects was armed with a knife. Police later discovered and impounded the vehicle.

Anyone having information about this crime, please call the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272. Crime Stoppers pays cash rewards up to $1,000 for information leading to an arrest. Caller ID is not used. All calls remain anonymous. ***(Crime Stoppers)***

PHI no longer carries toxic lice treatment

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
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REPORTER

PHI Pharmacy has stopped distributing prescription-only Lindane Lotion lice treatment even before the Food & Drug Administration cited the toxic risk of the popular drug.

According to PHI pharmacist Dr. Theodore "Ted" R. Parker, PHI pharmacies have stopped selling them in 2004 as they had become hazardous material and it was getting expensive to ship.

"It just got to the point where getting them to Hawaii had become a major chore so we just stopped carrying it," Parker said.

The FDA had issued a public health advisory in 2003 against the insecticide-based treatment for head lice.

The Lindane Lotion and Shampoo marketing had allegedly misled consumers by downplaying the rare, but serious, risks of the treatments.

In 2003, the FDA required Lindane products to carry a warning that hospitalizations, seizures and deaths have been reported after the use of the two products.

The warning label also cites "lindane toxicity, verified by autopsy" in two deaths: an infant and an adult who used the product to commit suicide.

California had banned the prescription of Lindane since 2002. Lawmakers in at least three states are considering restricting the use of treatments for head lice and body mites that contain the insecticide lindane.

Other over-the-counter medications such as RID and Nix are still available at the PHI Pharmacy.

Treatments such as RID and Nix are made of natural extracts from the chrysanthemum flower. They are reportedly safe and effective provided that instructions are followed as directed.

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Late *Tribune* publisher JP to be buried in California

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

The late *Saipan Tribune* publisher John "JP" Pangelinan will be buried at Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery in Culver City, California.

Pangelinan passed away last Feb. 5 at the age of 70 following a long bout with lung cancer.

While he will be interred in a cemetery in the mainland to be closer to his children, friends and loved ones can take part in the daily Holy Rosary prayed at 6:30pm at the residence of Rita P. Villagomez in As Lito.

Mass of Intentions is offered as well daily beginning 6am at Mt. Carmel Cathedral.

On Tuesday, February 12, 2008, his remains will be escorted from the Borja Funeral Home to Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 9am.

Last respects may be paid beginning 10am. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11am.

Pangelinan

On Wednesday, Feb. 13, 1pm Pangelinan's remains will be escorted to Saipan International Airport for departure to California for interment services.

Upon his arrival in California, his remains will be escorted to Holy Cross Mortuary in Culver City. Viewing and last respects will be held on Friday, Feb. 15, 2008 at Holy Cross Mortuary in Culver City, CA.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated the next day on Saturday, Feb. 16, at American Martyrs Catholic Church starting 10am.

Pangelinan is survived by his six children—Donna Pangelinan, Lisa Pangelinan, Johnny Pangelinan, Jay Pangelinan, Jennifer Pangelinan, and Christina. Except for Johnny (Guam) and Christina (Saipan), all make their home in California.

Pangelinan took the helm of the *Saipan Tribune* on Dec. 1, 2001. He brought to the newspaper a wealth of experience in management covering administrative, financial and operational matters.

Before joining the newspaper, Pangelinan worked for Tan Holdings for 23 years in various capacities on both Saipan and Guam. He had also served as president of Unity International Corporation on Guam and is the brother of former First Lady Sophia Tenorio.

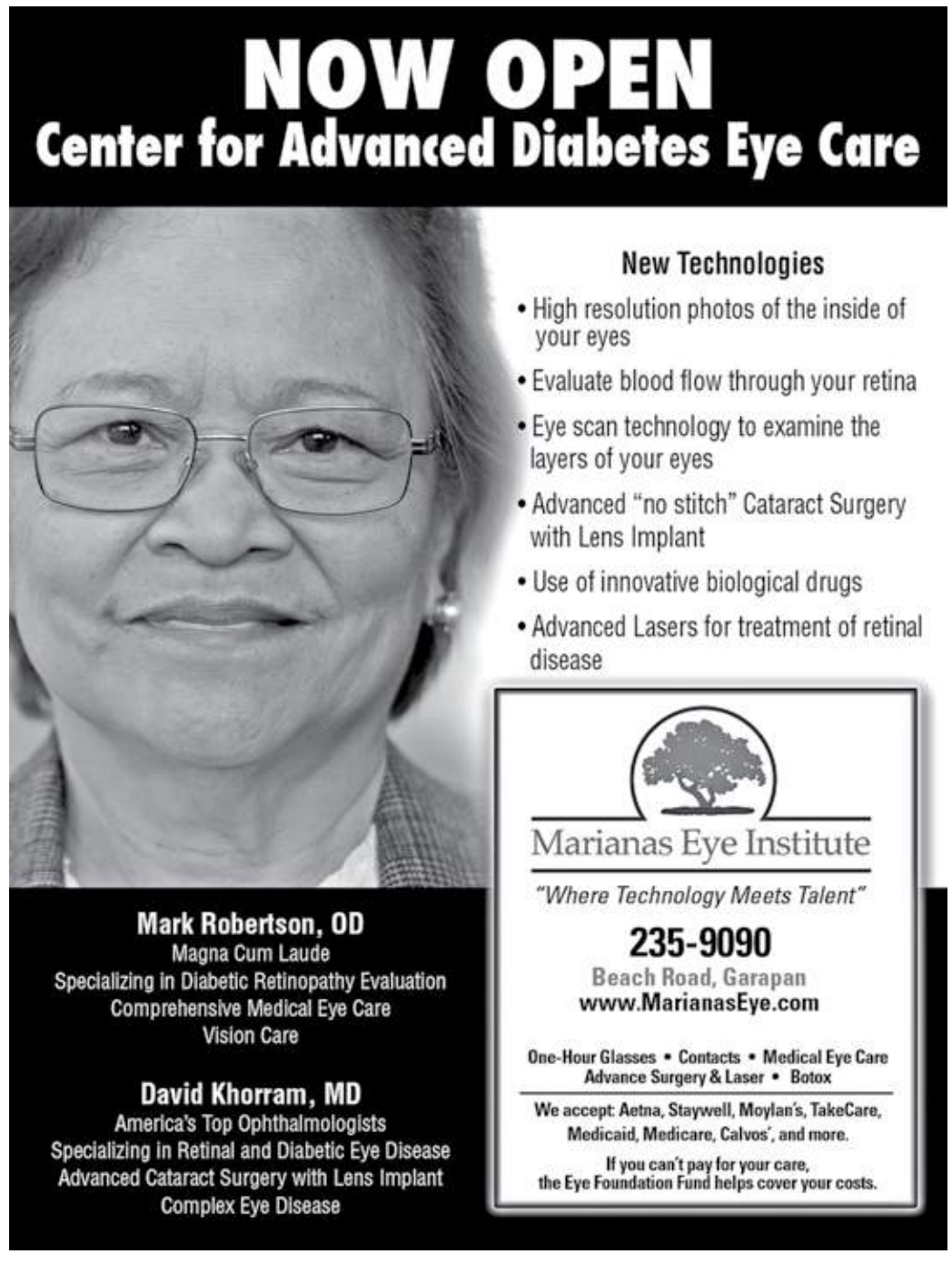
Pangelinan was born on Saipan on Oct. 26, 1937.

Camacho launches legislative website

House Floor Leader Joseph Camacho has officially launched his legislative website, www.camachocnmi.com.

This new website enables the public to view and download bills of the House of Representative. The public is encouraged to visit and post their comments.

Camacho said the website is part of his ongoing efforts to make government more accessible to the people. He extended his appreciation to Senate President Pete P. Reyes for his assistance and offer to provide Senate bills to be posted on the website. ***(PR)***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Rotavirus, meningitis vaccines to become available

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Two new vaccines will become available at the Department of Public Health in March.

The rotavirus vaccine is intended to fight against the diarrheal illness that often occurs in children younger than the two years of age, while the meningococcal vaccine fights against the bacterial infection that causes swelling of the membranes surrounding the brain and spinal cord, called meningitis.

The rotavirus vaccine will be taken orally by children under 6 months.

According to Centers for Disease Control regional epidemiologist Dr. Jean Paul Chiane, children under that age group are the most prone to hospitalization and high risk of death from diarrheal illness.

Medical director Dr. Richard Brostrom said the vaccine will only be given to children under 6 as it has not been proven effective for older children.

Chiane said that every country that was given the rotavirus vaccine has knocked down hospitalization for diarrheal illness s to at least 50 percent.

"Many countries have the rotavirus. It has nothing to do with the level of sanitation," Chiane said.

Department of Public Health immunization program manager Mariana Sablan said that the Rotavirus vaccine is federally funded under the Vaccine for Children Program and the National Immunization Program.

The meningococcal vaccine is another new vaccine that helps fight against meningitis.

The meningococcal vaccination will be made available to pre-adolescent children aged 11-12 as they are at highest risk of contracting meningitis.

The first batch of the two vaccines are expected to arrive March 1.

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Versa S	#7L398849	White	$15,990.00
Sentra	#7L611483	Gray	$16,990.00
Frontier XE	#7C409237	White	$23,390.00
Frontier SE	#7C408903	Silver	$26,990.00
~~Pathfinder~~	~~#6C67465~~ SOLD	~~Granite~~	~~$28,990.00~~

FORD	STOCK #	COLOR	PRICE
Ranger	#7PA31119	White	$16,990.00
Fusion	#7R127180	Pearl	$18,990.00
Escape	#7KB45887	Silver	$19,990.00
F-150	#6NB05745	White	$21,990.00
Sport Trac	#7UA65392	Gold	$26,990.00

HONDA	STOCK #	COLOR	PRICE
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Fit Sport	#7S025501	Blue	$16,495.00
Civic DX	#7L061948	White	$16,995.00
~~CR-V LX~~	~~#7C07353~~ SOLD	~~White~~	~~$22,995.00~~
Ridgeline	#7H505732	Silver	$32,990.00

KIA	STOCK #	COLOR	PRICE
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CDA sues senator over loan, penalty

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Development Authority has sued Sen. Joseph M. Mendiola for allegedly failing to pay $.3 million in loan, accrued interest, and penalty.

CDA, through counsel F. Matthew Smith, also named the senator's wife, Juanita M. Mendiola, and Carleen H. Palacios as co-defendants.

CDA asked the Superior Court to order the defendants to pay the principal sum of $157,615.31, plus accrued interest of $136,942.02, plus penalty charges of $6,976.57, plus miscellaneous charges of $350, for a total of $301,883.90 with interest thereon at 9 percent per annum.

CDA asked the court for the defendants' mortgaged property on Tinian be sold.

The plaintiff also demanded that any and all defendants' mortgaged chattels or other security or accounts be ordered seized and sold pursuant to law.

Mendiola

Saipan Tribune tried to reach Mendiola for comment, but he was not available in his office yesterday afternoon. He did not return Tribune's request for a call.

Smith stated in the complaint that CDA extended a $65,000 loan to the Mendiolas on July 1, 1993. The Mendiolas agreed to repay the loan in monthly installments beginning Nov. 1, 1993 and continuing until the loan was paid in full on Oct. 1, 2008.

Smith said that on Aug. 9, 1993, CDA extended a second loan to the Mendiolas in the amount of $35,000.

CDA and the Mendiolas and Palacios then consolidated the loans, mortgages, and security agreements.

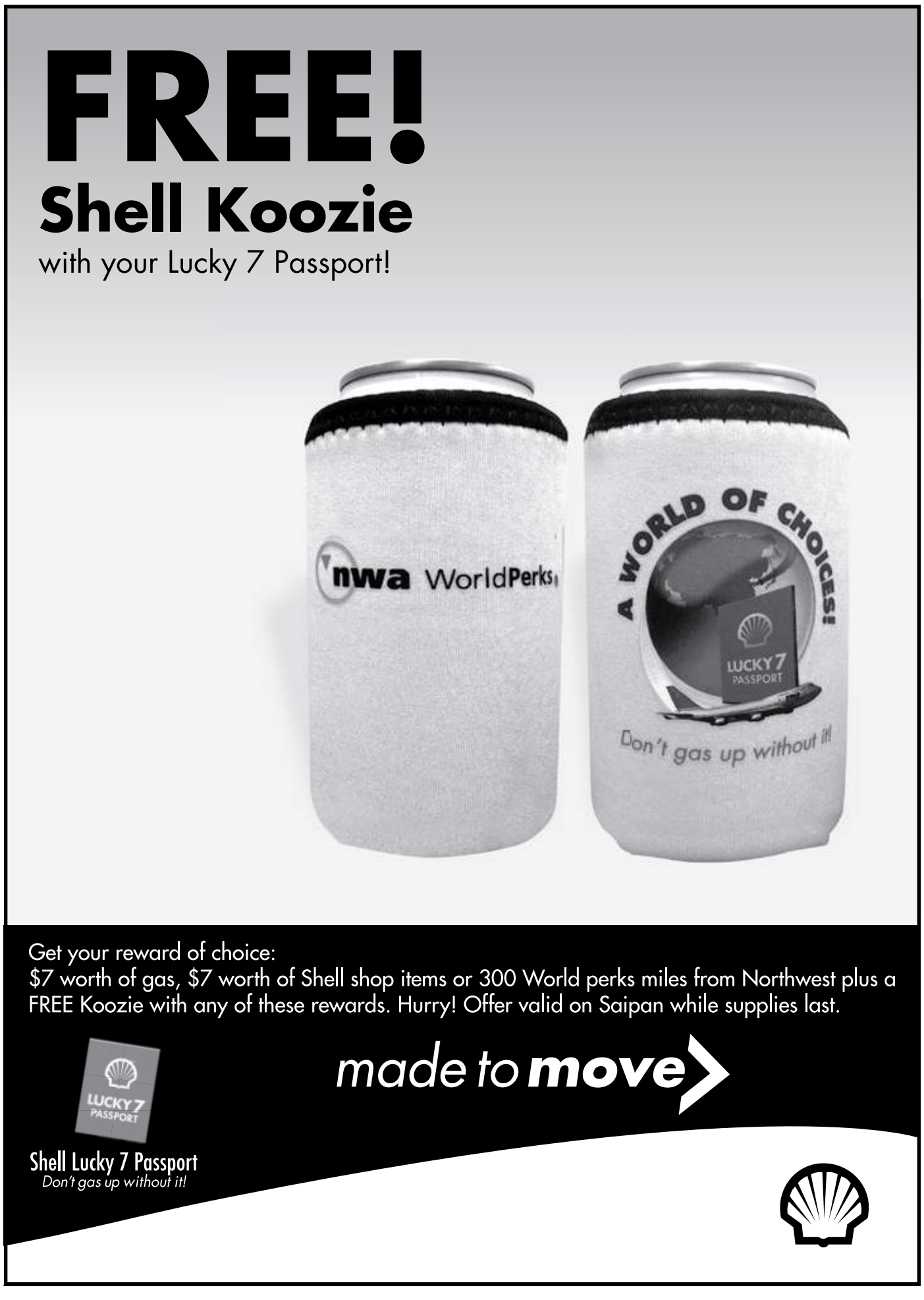
On Feb. 2, 1994, CDA extended a third loan to the Mendiolas, amounting to $35,000.

At the request of the defendants, in October 1994, CDA again revised the consolidated loans, making a new principal amount of $158,999.50 with new monthly payments.

Defendants are in default in the payments of indebtedness owed to CDA, Smith said.

"By failing, among other things, to pay the monthly installments due and owing to CDA, defendants have defaulted on the CDA loans and have breached the conditions of the consolidated and revised notes, loans, mortgages, guaranties, and other agreements with CDA," he said.

As of Sept. 11, 2007, the defendants owed a principal sum of $157,615.31 plus accrued interest of $136,942.02 plus penalty charges of $6,976.57 plus miscellaneous charges of $350 for a total of $301,883.90, with interest at 9 percent per annum, the lawyer added.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Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

FEBRUARY 8, 2000

Step up campaign vs automatic takeover
On the eve of the deliberation on legislation extending federal immigration laws to the CNMI, island leaders underscored yesterday the need to step up lobbying in Washington in order to convince U.S. lawmakers against enacting measures they said will impact on the local economy. The U.S. Senate was scheduled to consider on Monday afternoon (Washington D.C. time) for discussion S. 1052, the bill which will allow automatic takeover of the Commonwealth's immigration standards.

Retirement of CUC debts to CDA nears
Only $65 million of the approximately $107 million loan obtained by the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation from the government's major lending arm is expected to be retired within the 30-day period agreed by both parties last month. Development Authority Board Chair John S. Tenorio disclosed an agreement is being initially worked out between CDA and CUC to convert the principal loan secured by the utilities corporation in June 1997 into equity.

Teno upbeat on CNMI's strong banking sector
Governor Pedro P. Tenorio is confident the strong banking infrastructure in the Northern Marianas will help struggling businesses make it through the difficult economic times, citing heightened activities in the financial sector. The governor keynoted yesterday's grand opening of the new Bank of Guam in-store branch in Price Costco, which was attended by legislators and some of the island's business executives.

FEBRUARY 8, 2001

Weak business confidence grips NMI
Aside from a string of inquiries and a group of Korean businessmen wishing to pour in $25-million for shooting range facilities on the islands, foreign investors have shown little interest in putting up significant amount of money into the Commonwealth since 1997. A little over 10 foreign businesses have so far agreed to pump in combined investments of less than $10 million between February 1997 and middle of last year, according to the Foreign Investment Office of the commerce department.

Proposed labor law may render RP-CNMI labor agreement moot
The apparent failure of the Department of Labor and Immigration to consult with the Legislature on the amendments made to the bilateral labor agreement between the CNMI and Philippine governments may render the recently-signed pact moot and academic. A pending legislative measure could make this scenario possible primarily because the Philippine government does not allow its workers to leave the country unless certain conditions are met that include a requirement for employers to shoulder 100 percent of their Filipino workers' medical expenses.

BOE initiates major election reforms
The Board of Election has instituted major election reforms as officials yesterday declared that the forthcoming general election will be closely watched and transparent. Measures to prevent possible problems that may range from absentee voting to irregularities are being addressed as early as now, Election Executive Director Greg Sablan said. The BOE is currently accepting applicants for the position of election officials where at least 1,000 individuals are expected to be signed up. Of the said number, only about 200 will be deputized as election officials for the November polls.

FEBRUARY 8, 2002

CUC tightens security at Saipan power plant
The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation has taken steps to further increase security and internal precaution at its main power plant on Saipan, following an explosion at a Guam power facility that reportedly injured at least two persons. This, as the CUC disclosed that the 82-megawatt power plant in Lower Base—the biggest of four power plants on the island—is undergoing "major overhaul."

NMI prepares for 702 talks
With the Covenant 702 funding set to end this year, the administration has begun talking with key Washington officials to maintain, if not increase, the $11 million in Capital Improvement Program funds that the CNMI gets every year. Gov. Juan N. Babauta told reporters yesterday that he has already initiated talks between his office and key members of the US Congress and Department of Interior Secretary Gale Norton to set the stage for any upcoming renegotiation of the Covenant Section 702 funding.

Shanghai-Guam charter arrives tomorrow

HAGÅTÑA, Guam—Continental Micronesia announced yesterday that its inaugural charter flight from the People's Republic of China is scheduled to arrive tomorrow, Feb. 9, 2008. Flight 992 will have on board 143 passengers when it lands at the A.B. Won Pat International Airport in Guam early Saturday morning.

"We couldn't be more excited this year as Guam's hometown carrier. Celebrating 40 years, we're proud to operate the inaugural charter flights from Mainland China and welcome our visitors from Shanghai," said Continental Micronesia president and chief executive officer Mark Erwin.

"These charter flights are an opportunity to begin developing the tourism market between Guam and China. Eventually, we would like to also develop Guam as a connecting point between our outlying communities and markets in China," Erwin said.

Continental Airlines was only the third U.S. airline to receive authorization to operate in China in 2005. It immediately launched Beijing- Newark service in June 2005. The airline also recently received authority to operate Shanghai - Newark service beginning March 2009.

As the region's hometown airline, Continental Micronesia worked with the Guam Visitors Bureau and Shanghai-based travel agencies to turn bilateral rights into actual flight operations.

Continental Micronesia is headquartered in Guam and operates a Pacific hub from the A.B. Won Pat International Airport. For more company information, visit continental.com. ***(Continental)***

Rotary to mark 40th anniversary

The Rotary Club of Saipan is inviting all past Rotarians and citizens of the year to participate in their 40th year anniversary to take place on Feb. 16.

The Rotary Club of Saipan was founded in February 1966 with David M Sablan as their president. The only other founding member to still participate in the weekly meetings is Pedro JL Igitol.

Rotary is a worldwide organization of business and professional leaders that provides humanitarian service, encourages high ethical standards in all vocations, and helps build goodwill and peace in the world. Approximately 1.2 million Rotarians belong to more than 32,000 clubs in more than 200 countries and geographical areas.

To support its many humanitarian and community projects the Rotary Club of Saipan holds Las Vegas Nights, generating about $20,000 a year. As a nonprofit organization, the club received a waiver from the prohibition of gambling under Northern Marianas law.

In Rotary Year 1999 – 2000, under the leadership of president Alex A. Sablan, the club had a golf tournament and fishing derby as part of its fundraising activities. In addition, the club holds raffles, auctions, and collects fines from its members at its regular meetings or other functions.

The club will highlight "40 years of service" at the banquet.

Two round trip tickets donated by Continental Micronesia will be raffled off at the event along with several other prizes.

The event will take place at Fiesta Resort in the Hibiscus Hall starting at 6pm. The cost is $50 and includes dinner and entertainment. The dinner will be a formal gala dinner.

The Rotary meets every Tuesday at 11:45am at the Hyatt Regency. Their website is www.rotarysaipan.com.

Questions can be addressed to Rotarian Irene Tantiando at 322-2222 or Irene@bccnmi.com. ***(Rotary)***

Checkpoints scheduled next week

The Department of Public Safety Traffic Section will be conducting checkpoints on two separate days next week.

The first one, a seatbelt and child restraint checkpoint, will be held on Feb. 12, 2008, Tuesday.

The first setup will be on Chalan Pale Arnold, Gualo Rai by Chong's Corp. This operation will start around 9am and will end at about 10:15am.

The second set up will be on Beach Road Chalan LauLau by the late Dr. Benisto Kaipat's residence. It will start at about 3pm and will end around 4:15pm.

The second, a DUI sobriety checkpoint, will be held on Feb. 16, 2008, Saturday.

The first setup will be on Beach Road Chalan Kanoa in front of Carmen Safeway Supermarket. This will start at about 9pm and will end around 10:15pm.

The second setup will be on Chalan Pale Arnold, Chalan LauLau in front of Trans-America Corp. This will start around 11:30pm and will end at about 12:45am.

Each checkpoint will last at least 75 minutes (1 hour 15 minutes) at each location.

This activity is part of the department's efforts to deter, detect and apprehend impaired drivers and ensure that all vehicle occupants are protected.

In addition, Traffic officers will be conducting highway criminal interdictions, saturation patrols, aggressive driver interdictions, and laser enforcement.

For more information, contact Sgt. Anthony Macaranas at 664-9084/5. ***(DPS)***

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Samuel C. Lo, O.D., M.D.

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Dr. Lo will be in Saipan beginning February 18, 2008 for one week. Medicare, Medicaid and most insurance are accepted.

Appointments can be made by calling Hardt Eye Clinic (670) 235-2030, the Laser and Eye Surgery Center (808) 949-2000 or by email at drsamuello@yahoo.com.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Voting counts again

This editorial appeared in Wednesday's Los Angeles Times:

It's hard to say what prompted Americans to stop caring about their president, but it might have been Richard Nixon. Voter turnout for presidential elections was north of 60 percent in the 1960s, but dropped to 55 percent in 1972 and has never climbed above that mark since. The cynicism may be nearing an end, however; huge turnout in many primary races, including the Super Tuesday contests in California and 23 other states, shows that the nation may finally have gotten over Watergate. As candidates from both parties relentlessly drive home the message that each will be an agent of change in Washington, voters have a glimmer of hope that they're telling the truth.

It isn't just the turnout numbers that are rising. Presidential debates this season have become mind-numbingly common. Each party has held about 20 since last April, most of them relegated to cable or local TV. Yet viewership has been surprisingly high. The Los Angeles Times/CNN/Politico Democratic debate on Thursday attracted the highest ratings of any primary debate in cable TV history—8.3 million people tuned in, enough to qualify as a modest hit even on a broadcast network.

There is undoubtedly more than one explanation for this. Turnout is usually higher when there isn't an incumbent involved, and this is the first time since 1952 when there has been neither a president nor a vice president in the running. This election is also in part a referendum on George W. Bush's leadership—polls show that large majorities of Americans think the country is on the wrong track. Little wonder that "change" is the 2008 campaign watchword, one that even Republicans are adopting.

Yet more than anything else, it is the candidates themselves who are injecting rare excitement into the contest. On the Republican side, Mike Huckabee entices evangelical Christians, Mitt Romney hopes to be the choice of fiscal conservatives, Ron Paul brings up the libertarian wing, and John McCain ... well, the difficulty in pinpointing his position on the conservative spectrum probably explains his newfound popularity. He pleases many but satisfies few.

The Democrats have far narrower choices—Hillary Rodham Clinton and Barack Obama are all-but identical on the issues that matter. Yet it's clear from turnout numbers that the Democrats are far more energized than Republicans, and it isn't hard to see why: Electing either a woman or an African American man to the presidency would be a historic first, and these candidates carry that promise with grace.

More than that, though, these candidates have intrigued young voters. Savvy use of the Internet by their campaigns gets some of the credit, but much of the youth groundswell has been spontaneous and grass-roots. Generation Y, for whom Watergate might as well have happened in the Middle Ages, will pay the bills for their elders' irresponsible handling of Social Security, the environment and the national debt. Their participation in this year's election couldn't be more welcome.

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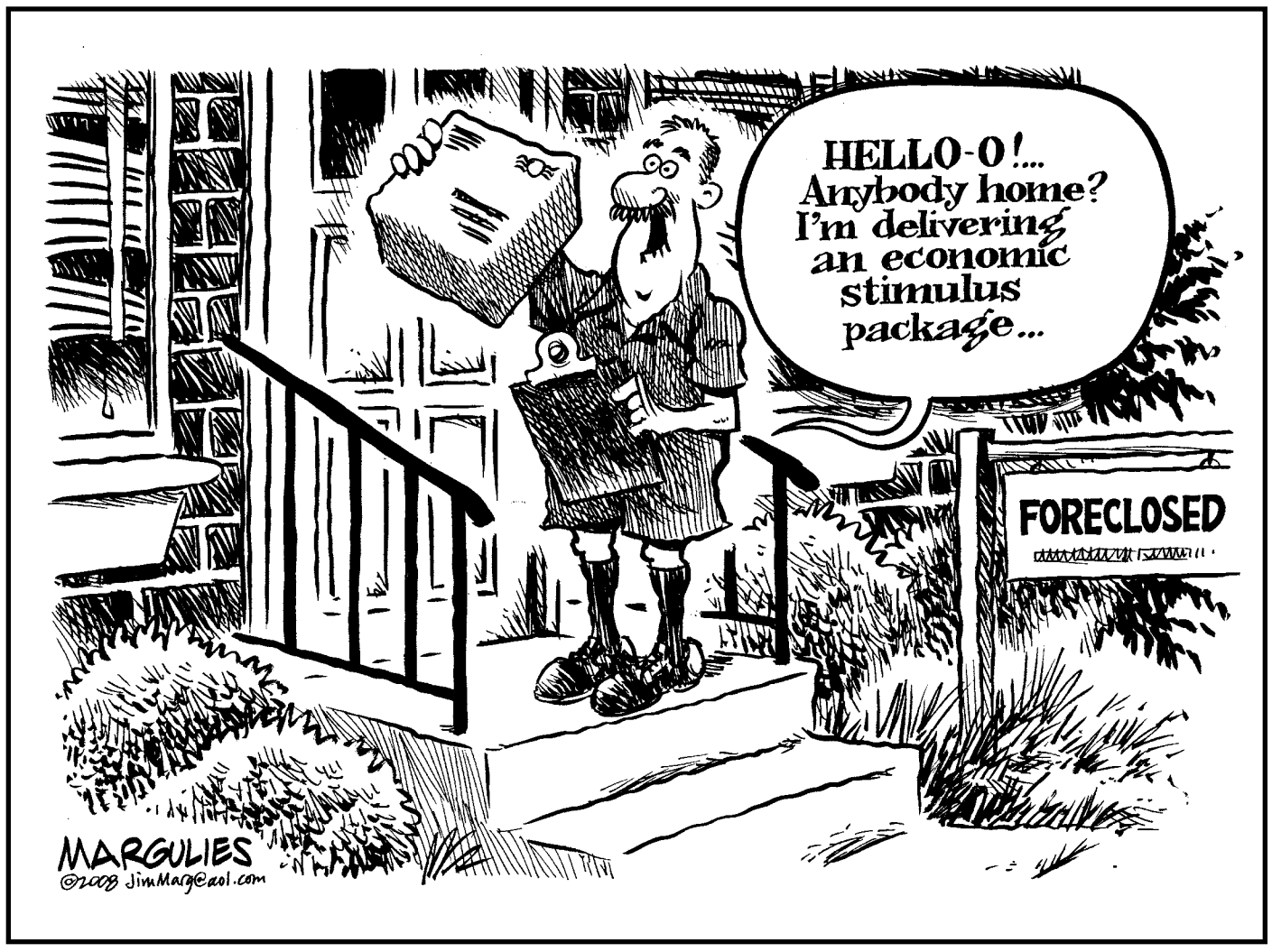


Time mismanagement

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Ed's column runs every Friday. Visit Ed at SaipanBlog.com and TropicalEd.com.

A major theme in business, management, or even life itself, is how to use your time more productively. Hard work now, we are told, will pay dividends in the future. That's the whole idea behind an "investment of time."

But this introduces the reciprocal case: Maybe hard work will pay off in the future, but laziness pays off immediately.

Furthermore, if we're going to toil for a future payoff, where's the guarantee that it will be delivered? Fate can take all your money, or your health, or whatever else you have, in the blink of an eye. Everything we've "worked for" can be confiscated by the swipe of some official's pen, grabbed by the whim of a robber, or blotted out by the swerve of a drunk driver.

So maybe this "future" they talk about will never arrive. Or if it does, we won't get our reward. Or if we get it, we might realize that we really don't want it anyway. What a minefield! It stretches from now into infinity.

But consider the opposite case: If you're indulging a spell of laziness, nobody can take the enjoyment of the moment away from you. While fate can steal the fruits of your effort, it can't take the fruits of your leisure. So from the standpoint of risk adversity, isn't a bit of laziness a form of lifestyle insurance?

Maybe this is why tropical islands seem to suit me. A tropical venue doesn't compel laziness, of course, but it has some advantages in the leisure vs. labor decision.

First of all, paradise serves to keep the nose-to-the-grindstone clones at bay. They're all in their urban rat cages, nibbling each other to death. So I cede the cubicle universe to them. Let's the rest of us keep Paupau beach in the bargain. Fair enough?

Which brings me to a second tropical blessing: There's lots to do besides work. You could spend 100 years in the Commonwealth and never exhaust the fun stuff. For example, I've only been on nine or 10 of the Mariana islands, and I haven't even scratched the surface when it comes to exploration.

You may ask (or you may not, I admit) why I'm singing the praises of goofing off today, especially with Chinese New Year upon us, which presents an auspicious occasion for us to renew our resolve to work and prosper in the future.

Well, when I hear people around me making their plans for vigorous efforts in the coming year, it all sounds grueling, and it makes me tired and bored just thinking about it. Then I feel guilty for not feeling inspired by some grand bolt of work-ethic. But, take it from me, the best way to snuff out guilt is to bury it under a bigger sin.

So things go downhill from there, and a rogue instinct (all my instincts are rouge) compels me to start goofing off. That's what the New Year season does to me. This time around is no exception: Today, I spent the entire mid-day drinking coffee in a hotel lobby, watching four hours drift by on the face of an analog clock. I'm digging myself a hole; I'm supposed to be catching up on a mountain of reading for work. But I have pushed all thoughts from my head, and am doing nothing but converting oxygen and glucose into carbon dioxide and water.

And what is shameful is my utter lack of shame about it.

So: New Year's goals? I have many of them. Resolve? I've got that, too. Hopes for a prosperous future? Yes. And what am I doing about all this?

Well, at the moment, nothing. Absolutely nothing.

■ ■ ■

A great man has left us: John Pangelinan, whose steady hand guided the *Tribune*'s helm for about six years. JP was more than a publisher, he was a leader and a gentleman with a dynamic mix of integrity, competence, and charm. Those of us who worked for him felt blessed to know him, and the entire community benefited from his service and efforts. Yes, heaven got the man, but we keep, and treasure, the blessings he brought us.

Well, when I hear people around me making their plans for vigorous efforts in the coming year, it all sounds grueling, and it makes me tired and bored just thinking about it. Then I feel guilty for not feeling inspired by some grand bolt of work-ethic. But, take it from me, the best way to snuff out guilt is to bury it under a bigger sin.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Letters to the Editor

Stop the lies

I recently received an e-mail from Taotao Tano's Action Group, one which was as disturbing as it was contradictory. The e-mail states that HR 3079 *"intends to deport ALL labor contract workers currently residing in the CNMI with no exceptions. This in itself is discriminatory. Our group here in the U.S. is working together with other advocacies that are opposing the bill. These groups will attack the bill specifically because it threatens the rights of immigrants' rights."*

In the very next paragraph, Taotao Tano states *"In the long term, the locals will eventually lose their voting powers and therefore the indigenous majority that control the government will lose it to the hands of non-indigenous U.S citizens."*

Hmmm, let me get this straight. According to Taotao Tano, we will have no contract workers in the CNMI, yet locals will lose their voting powers to non-U.S. indigenous citizens. Does this mean that the CNMI will be invaded and dominated by a foreign country in the near future? After all, Taotao Tano stated HR 3079 will "get rid of ALL labor contract workers." If the CNMI no longer has any contract workers, how exactly will locals suddenly "lose their voting powers" and become a minority?

Sadly, the letter gets even more twisted. Taotao Tano goes on to say that once HR 3079 is signed into law, *"We will eventually be forced to pay property tax…"* The U.S. Federal Government is going to force us to pay property taxes? Taotao Tano, *pot fabot*, show me where HR 3079 affirms that we will eventually be forced to pay property taxes. This is either a boldfaced lie or a desperate attempt to build opposition to HR 3079, or a combination of both. The way I see it, if you are going to spread lies about HR 3079, why stop there? I say, go for the gold! Here are some other fabrications I would like to offer to Taotao Tano to use at their discretion:

■ **HR 3079 will cause cancer.** Yes my friends, if HR 3079 is signed into law, the U.S. will put fluoridated water in our water supply! Forget the fact fluoride is considered to be one of the greatest inventions of the 20th century. Our Taotao Tano team of scientists have recently concluded that fluoride kills! *Biba* tooth decay!

■ **HR 3079 will take your land!** Yes *chelu*, HR 3079 won't stop at enforcing local property taxes. The U.S. feds are bent on taking the very land you own and turning it into cotton farms! Our Taotao Tano covert ops that are entrenched deep in the CIA's headquarters have found conclusive evidence that the U.S. wants all locals to work on cotton farms. What is worse is that they will pay only $3.55 an hour! *Biba* cheap land and cheap property value!

■ **HR 3079 will destroy our economy!** Yes *kumaire*, if our immigration and wages are federalized, our economy will collapse! Just look at our neighbor island of Guam! Their immigration is federalized, and Guam has no tourist or military industry and they can't find any investors! Guam is dirt poor compared to the CNMI! Just look at how underdeveloped Guam's Tumon Bay is. I'm sure Guam wishes they had our jewel of the Pacific, the enchanting Paseo de Marianas! *Biba* $3.55 an hour for the next 20 years!

Believe it or not, Taotao Tano's e-mail gets even more unsettling. Their e-mail had a bunch of attachment letters addressed to different U.S. senators opposing HR 3079. What made me cringe was that the letter was ripped off from a Guam indigenous rights group! It was originally written and addressed to "Friends of Guam's rights to water." What Taotao Tano did was they took the letter and made a bunch of changes and dressed it up as their own. Sadly though, they forgot to do one very important function in Microsoft Word: *accept changes*. All the changes Taotao Tano made to this Guam-based letter appear on the right side of the letter because they were tracking changes in MS Word and failed to simply accept these changes. How embarrassing. Taotao Tano, Northern Marianas College offers community courses in MS Word. You might want to call them and enroll in one of their classes. I am sure U.S. Sen. Biden's staff had a good laugh. I didn't though. I actually felt sad—sad that some people are distorting facts and using guerrilla tactics to thwart the inevitable. With all the "thousands" of people in Taotao Tano, why couldn't they muster a decent proofreader who would have at least made sure that they accepted the changes in MS Word before sending the letters out? Here's the MS Word Tip of the Week: Click on F1 for Microsoft Help whenever you are in doubt. If you don't know what F1 is, you should probably take a computer class as soon as possible.

With all of the problems facing us today, I honestly believe the CNMI's greatest problem is not CUC, CHC, or HR 3079. Our greatest problem right now is ignorance. When I say ignorance, I am not referring those who lack a college degree or education. I have uncles and aunties here who didn't receive a college degree but have great wisdom. I speak of ignorance as being unaware of what is really going on, or a lack of knowledge on important issues affecting us today. Here are some issues where I feel ignorance affects better judgment here in the CNMI:

■ **Minimum wage.** It is pure ignorance on the part of people who believe raising our minimum wage will destroy our economy, yet shut their pie holes when CUC's rates were doubled within the blink of an eye. Any owner who can't run a business because of a gradual (yes, it is gradual) increase of the minimum wage should not be in business in the first place. A higher minimum wage means less dependence on our sacred government for jobs and more money being circulated in our cash-deprived local economy. A person making $7 an hour will more likely spend more than a person who is making only $3.55 an hour. I still scratch my head and wonder how a person can support a family making $3.55 an hour. To all the business owners and government leaders wanting to keep the minimum wage, ask yourself this question: Could you support your family making $3.55 an hour? I don't think so. You *cannot* stimulate an economy

See STOP on Page 14

Thank you

We, the nonresident workers, would like to extend our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the members of the US Congress, Hon. Pete Tenorio, David Cohen, Allen Stayman, Jim Bennedeto, Wendy Doromal, atty. Stephen Woodruff, Rep.Tina Sablan, Ed Propst, Sr. Stella Mangona, Ron Hodges, Lupe Manglona, Mrs. Fe Calixterio, Mr. Jaime Vergara,organizers and members of the Unity March, friends, supporters, the Silent Majority, and others (you know who you are) for supporting the cause and concern of the guest workers.

Thank you for helping us in our quest for equal rights and protection of law. Your concern for us will always be remembered by the next generations.

We would like to commend the tireless effort and devotion of Ma'am Wendy Doromal who has fought for more than two decades for human rights, freedom, justice, and democracy for the foreign contract workers in the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. We are inviting our friends to visit the website http://unheardnonomore.blogspot.com to know more about the issues that concern the CNMI guest workers. To suggest or contribute a story, article, or photos e-mail doromal@earthlink.net.

God bless America and CNMI! May justice reign in the CNMI! Maraming salamat po! Thank you! Si yuus maase!

Jerry Custodio
Human Dignity Movement

Apology to students

Dear Kagman High School students:

I write to inform you that I made a bad choice but I am not a bad person. I apologize for this bad choice I made. In life, we are provided with an array of choices, both good and bad ones. I hope and wish you all select the choice that is right for you now and throughout your lifetime that will bring you an abundance of happiness.

Sincerely,
Doreen M. Tudela
Former principal

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Katheryn Tuten-Puckett, Jean Rayphand, and Douglas Rhodes. The three graded about 30 essays each last year.

A plea for community support

It seems like school just started, but the third quarter of the 2007-08 school year is almost over. Progress Reports go out next week. For my students, this means we are nearing the end of our writing quarter. Eighty 8th graders have mastered the writing process by polishing eight different essay styles. On Friday, April 4, our writing will be showcased in portfolios in the Hopwood cafeteria for the parents and community to see.

This year, as with last, I am seeking eight brave high school language arts teachers who are willing to take a look at only 10 middle school essays and provide constructive feedback. I will provide the rubrics and even deliver them to you, if you would like to volunteer your time to make a difference in the lives of students on the verge of high school.

I cannot tell you how meaningful this exercise is. Our students are hungry for authentic praise! Last year, Ms. Katheryn Tuten-Puckett, Ms. Jean Rayphand, and Mr. Douglas Rhodes heeded the call and graded approximately 30 essays each! My humble gratitude goes out to all three of them. If you choose to participate this year, your help will be greatly appreciated by not only the students and their parents, but by me as well. This is a very meaningful culminating activity to launch our kids to high school. Won't you help?

If you are interested, please call me at 237-3458, or email me at nepaialb@pss.cnmi.mp. I look forward to hearing from you.

Beth Nepaial
Hopwood Junior High School
8th Grade Language Arts Teacher
Chalan Piao, Saipan

Sattelite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲82° ▼75°	▲82° ▼76°	▲82° ▼75°	▲81° ▼75°	▲81° ▼75°

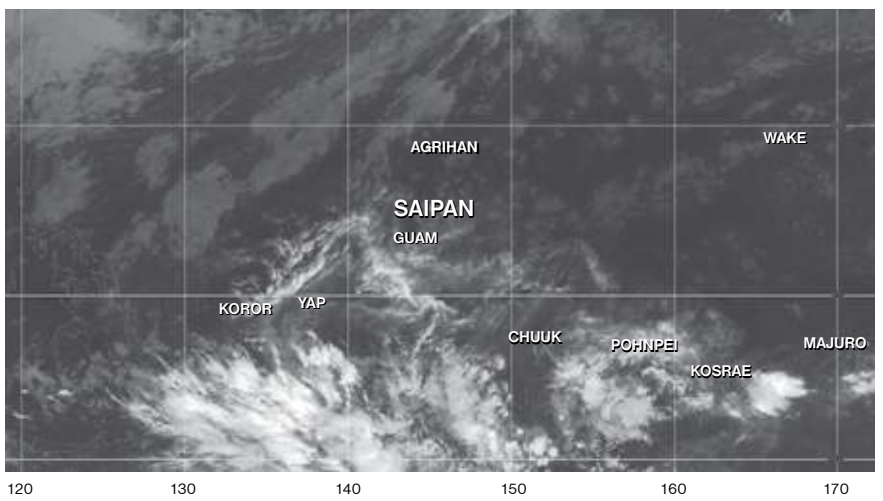
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Sunny	▲85	▼75
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼78
Yap	Cloudy	▲89	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼75
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼75
Majuro	Cloudy	▲85	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲74	▼64
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲33	▼16
Hong Kong	Cloudy	▲60	▼52
Honolulu	Showers	▲77	▼69
London	Mostly Sunny	▲54	▼41
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲70	▼51
Manila	Cloudy	▲87	▼75
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲65	▼48
Miami	Showers	▲83	▼69
New York	Partly Sunny	▲45	▼38
Osaka	Cloudy	▲42	▼31
Paris	Sunny	▲54	▼39
Pusan	Partly Sunny	▲44	▼23
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲54	▼28
Salem	Rain	▲46	▼36
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲59	▼46
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲32	▼15
Tokyo	Partly Sunny	▲45	▼34
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲50	▼34

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, FEB. 7, 2008
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from 25N147E to 20N140E then continues as a shear line to 13N130E and beyond. Extensive cloudiness and scattered showers are found along and up to 250 miles northwest of this boundary. An old frontal boundary runs westward from 25N170E to 23N164E then northwestward to 24N158E. Patchy clouds and rain are seen along and up to 200 miles north of this feature. Surface convergence is producing scattered showers from northeast of Wake Island to east of the Marianas or within 60 miles of a line from 21N170E to 18N162E to 15N155E to 15N149E. A near-equatorial trough reaches eastward from 3N130E through a weak circulation centered at 1N140E to end at EQ145E. A surface trough reaches northwestward from the circulation to south of Koror near 6N136E. Numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring south of Koror and Yap or south of a line from 6N130E to 7N140E to EQ146E. Trade-wind convergence and upper-level divergence are combining to generate scattered showers and a few thunderstorms south of Chuuk and Pohnpei within 100 miles of a line from EQ148E to 4N160E and also over Kosrae to south of Majuro to the dateline within 70 miles of a line from 4N160E to 6N180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

02:31AM Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
09:16AM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
02:57PM Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
08:05PM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:45AM	6:18PM
Saturday	6:44AM	6:18PM
Sunday	6:44AM	6:19PM
Monday	6:44AM	6:19PM
Tuesday	6:43AM	6:19PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	07:21AM	07:18PM
Saturday	08:00AM	08:12PM
Sunday	08:39AM	09:06PM
Monday	09:19AM	10:02PM
Tuesday	10:01AM	11:00PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF FEBRUARY 2, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota			
CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7
Saipan-Guam			
CO9317	5:00am	5:50am	Daily
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily
Saipan-Narita			
NW 078	8:25am	1:30pm	Daily via Nagoya
NW 075	4:50pm	7:30pm	Daily
Saipan-Osaka			
NW 083	4:30pm	7:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Nagoya			
NW 078	8:25am	11:05am	Daily
Saipan-Manila			
CO 895	4:45pm	6:35pm	6
CO 895	6:45pm	8:35pm	3
Saipan-Seoul			
OZ 604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:40am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7
Saipan-Busan			
OZ 608	4:00am	7:35am	1,4,5,7
Saipan-Guanzhou			
CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6
Saipan-Shanghai			
MU 590	4:20am	7:00am	2,6
Saipan-Beijing			
CA 988	3:15am	7:00am	1,5
Guam-Manila			
CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	6:30am	8:05am	6
CO 893	8:25am	10:00am	2,7
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	8:00pm	9:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7
Guam-Hongkong			
CO 909	7:45pm	10:40pm	1,5
Guam-Rota			
CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan			
CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6
Guam-Saipan			
CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
Narita-Saipan			
NW 076	10:35am	3:05pm	Daily
NW 077	6:15pm	1:10am+1	Daily via Nagoya
Osaka-Saipan			
NW 084	10:40am	3:10pm	Daily
Nagoya-Saipan			
NW 077	8:45pm	1:10am+1	Daily
Manila-Saipan			
CO 890	9:15am	2:55pm	6
CO 890	11:45am	5:35pm	3
Seoul-Saipan			
OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6
Busan-Saipan			
OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	3,4,6,7
Guanzhou-Saipan			
CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5
Shanghai-Saipan			
MU 589	8:05pm	3:00am+1	1,5
Beijing-Saipan			
CA 987	6:05pm	1:55am+1	4,7
Manila-Guam			
CO 894	11:20am	4:55pm	2,7
CO 894	7:45pm	1:20am+1	6
CO 892	9:45pm	5:25am+1	3 via Koror
CO 892	9:45pm	6:30am+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	11:10pm	4:40am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:15pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7
Hongkong-Guam			
CO 910	11:40pm	6:20am+1	1,5
Rota-Guam			
CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Letters to the Editor

Cover up

To Senator Pete Reyes:

It is unfortunate that I tried to remain diplomatic throughout the entire issues in our homeland given the level of frustration instilled by all of our elected leaders. Senator what you fail to understand is that all of you were caught in a lie and in order to cover that lie you are including our organization to take the fall, just like everyone else who had been trying to derail Taotao Tano's efforts in achieving transparency, accountability and stability in our homeland. Although you tried to make it seem as if we were a part of your "frame work," I must notify you that Taotao Tano organization was not formed until May 2007 and your unified letter to Bingaman was in March 1, 2007. If you recall, the first time we met was in your office in May 2007 in the presence of Sen. Felix Mendiola, and Rep. Crispin Ogo, requesting a time frame to address the entire legislative body as to what you people where doing to rectify the economic issues in our homeland, including the exorbitant CUC rates and the federal issue. On the federal issue, we were addressing to you as to why the Department of Interior's David Cohen was in and out of our homeland concentrating on the foreign guest workers and ignoring our people. It was you who personally handed Taotao Tano your draft letter of a unified position in support of Washington Rep. Pete A. Tenorio, addressed to Bingaman, which was signed by all of you except for Sen. Luis Crisostimo.

We did not pay much attention to your letter back then for we were too preoccupied with the current issues and until recently, during our researches we managed to locate that particular letter that you had given us back in May 2007. Going back to our files we managed to pull out an article that Marianas Variety did back on May 23, 2007 which validates our conclusion that we were not a part of your unified "Frame work" letter to Bingaman and we believe you mistook us for some other group.

Senator, we may look at us as if we are dumb, but we are not stupic! All of you decided on something detrimental to our people without our consent, consultation or full participation of the Federal issue which is not in our best interest. We believe that the Department of Interior Insular Affairs took advantage of our economic downfall to include the use of homeland and national security border control issues as an excuse to take control of our local controlled Labor and Immigration system. Mind you that in the United States there are over 12 million illegal aliens and a broken down immigration system. This is why we fight.

Senator, I've always respected and admired your work, but this cover up issue is beyond realm and remember that you allowed us to address the SNILD Delegation comprised of both Senate and lower house on May 23, 2007 and while waiting to address all of you for approximately 45 minutes you people where arguing about street signs while the people out in the community were suffering on CUC's exorbitant rates including the question as to why the legislature was silent concerning federal issues lingered in the community.

When I testified on Aug. 15, 2007 before Chairwoman Donna Christensen, Madeleine Bordallo and Eni Faleomavega, the statement I made about our "leaders both past and present have all failed to address the daunting problems of our Labor and Immigration system" was being directed to all of you. You all disastrously failed in addressing and correcting the issue for you were all protecting you own self-interest. Rather than rectifying the loopholes and flaws in our immigration system, all of you amended laws after laws inflaming the situation even more, not excluding the shelving of Public Law 9-71 the Resident Fair Compensation Act of 1995 which we personally addressed to you and made a mockery of our enquiry.

As president of TAOTAO TANO I am not afraid to address this issues directly to all of you, for it is true that all of you failed and betrayed the people of the Commonwealth to satisfy your on own self-interest.

As president of TAOTAO TANO I am not afraid to address this issues directly to all of you, for it is true that all of you failed and betrayed the people of the Commonwealth to satisfy your on own self-interest. All of you got caught up in your games and now the common people in our homeland are suffering and fighting to clean up the mess all of you left behind.

Again, this Federal issue should have never taken place if you were all actually doing your jobs as our elected leaders. This is why we fight, senator. It's about the moral principle behind this collusioned Federal issue and so called "Frame Work".

2009 is around the block and effective immediately we will spread your letter throughout the entire community, including sending a major online campaign to further include our Youtube site notifying everyone what our elected leaders have done in our homeland behind closed doors. Our people need to know the truth!

Gregorio Cruz Jr.
President of Taotao Tano

Such is life in the NMI

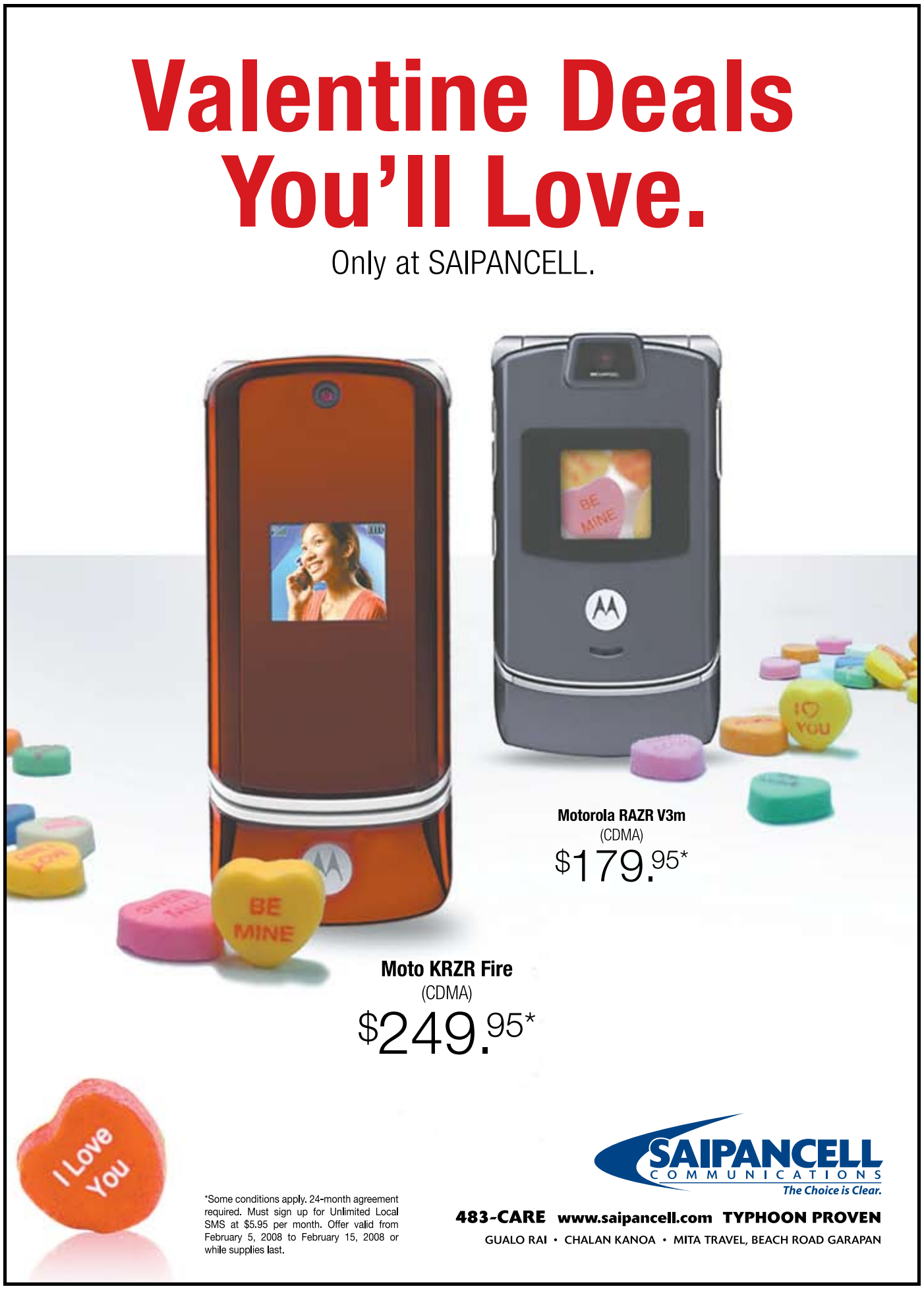
Regarding the 90 percent failure rate of TOELF test takers at NMC, to quote Jeanne Rayphand, it is not intended for students for whom English is their first language. Nor is it intended for students who have demonstrated their ability to succeed throughout their high school studies where the courses were in English.

If this is a test for people whose mother tongue is not English, why do native English speakers have only a 10 percent success rate? If native English speakers cannot pass a test designed for non-native English speakers, what does this say about the quality of education at the primary, and secondary levels? If native English speaking applicants at NMC cannot pass a test designed to gauge English skills, I find it hard to believe that these entrants demonstrated their ability to succeed throughout their high school studies where the courses were in English, as Ms. Rayphand points out.

NMPASI has no business in this matter. This is a matter for the Board of Education. I know this will not happen. NMPASI will waste money, the Legislature will waste money, and NMC will ultimately buckle and lower the standards for admission. Such is life in the CNMI.

Paul Harsany
Garapan, Saipan

USSP Club
Customers Appreciation
and Rose B-day Bash
Weekend Concert
Direct from Guam
NANYO & FISHERMAN CLUB BAND
Friday Feb. 15 & Saturday Feb. 16, 2008
Door entry $5 with one FREE drink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www.marianaslabor.net

The Department of Labor's new website is now available for posting job vacancy announcements by employers, posting resumes by persons seeking employment, and viewing of job vacancy announcements by the general public. Use of the website is free.

If you want to post a JVA, when you go to the website, please register as an employer. Your registration will be promptly reviewed by the Department of Labor. Once, your registration has been approved, you will be able to post job vacancy announcements and review resumes. You need to register only once. Only registered and approved employers are allowed to post JVAs and review posted resumes.

If you want to post a resume, when you go to the website, please register as a prospective employee. Your registration will be reviewed promptly by the Department of Labor. Once your registration has been approved, you will be able to post your resume and reply directly to posted JVAs. You need to register only once. Only registered persons in the community are allowed to post resumes and use the website to reply directly to posted JVAs.

If you want to look at posted job vacancy announcements, just visit the website. Job vacancy announcements are available for viewing by the general public. No registration is required for this purpose. Department of Labor forms and announcements will be also be available to the general public on this website for downloading.

STOP

From Page 11

on meager slave labor wages. If our government raises the minimum wage, reduces the number of government jobs, and creates a leaner, more efficient government, our economy will certainly rebound.

■ **CUC**. It is ignorance that reigns supreme when people believe cutting CUC employees' salaries will put a dent in the CUC crisis. I beg this administration and all our leaders to spare CUC's employees. If you want to cut costs, eliminate CUC's special consultants who obviously haven't done much for our power problems. Why would you penalize a front-line person at CUC who makes a small salary and has to put up with verbal abuse from irate customers on a daily basis? Are our CUC linesmen and cashiers to blame for CUC's problems? What would happen if every employee at CUC decided to go on strike? Let's avert this from happening and make sure that no regular employee of CUC gets a salary cut. CUC's front-line employees are no more to blame for our utility crisis than we are. They are just regular employees doing their jobs, working day in and day out so they can pay their bills and put food on the table for their kids. Cutting a person's salary by 20 percent when some of them are making only $11,000 a year does nothing but hurt families.

■ **Federalization**. It is ignorance on the part of those who spew radical, anti-U.S. rhetoric and blame everything on America. Ignorant leaders will curse the United States and accuse Uncle Sam of trying to turn our beloved CNMI into a banana republic, yet gladly accept hundreds of millions of dollars in U.S. aid in building our great Commonwealth. I was flabbergasted when I overheard a person say that things were better under the Japanese administration. Excuse me? Was there a Chamorro or Carolinian Governor in charge during the Japanese occupation? Were the indigenous people in charge of the government during the Japanese occupation, or were they mostly farmhands and hard laborers? About a year ago, my grandfather, the late Henry Sablan Pangelinan, spoke to me extensively about some of the atrocities committed by the Japanese. He witnessed this first-hand on numerous occasions on Saipan and Guam. He was thankful that the United States liberated the CNMI. He was a wise man, one whom I respected and loved dearly, and he was also an American patriot. While I believe we should embrace and hold on to the important aspects of our indigenous cultures, we cannot forget that we are more than U.S. passport holders—we are Americans! We talk about the importance of respect all the time, but are we paying any homage to the United States? Do we honestly believe the United States would want to decimate our economy? Would it really be in the best interests of the United States to have everyone in the CNMI on welfare? Only fools and conspiracy theorists would believe such anti-American propaganda. One argument that HR 3079 opponents have trouble explaining is why other U.S. territories have a stronger, more robust economy than the CNMI does, in spite of their federal immigration and wages. Why does Guam continue to attract more tourists and investors than the CNMI? Perhaps federalization of immigration isn't so bad after all. Perhaps federalization will bring a sense of stability, which in turn will attract more inves-

> Federalization. It is ignorance on the part of those who spew radical, anti-U.S. rhetoric and blame everything on America.

See STOP on Page 16

Category 1: 4 to 9 years old
Category 2: 10 to 13 years old
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FEB. 08, 2008 – FRIDAY FOOD FAIR
6PM Lobby of Saipan Grand Hotel
Competition for the 4 to 9 years old category
Top 3 winners to be announced
FEB. 15, 2008 – FRIDAY FOOD FAIR
6PM Lobby of Saipan Grand Hotel
Competition for the 9 to 13 years old category
Top 3 winners to be announced
FEB. 22, 2008 – FRIDAY FOOD FAIR
6PM Lobby of Saipan Grand Hotel
SHOWDOWN of the Top 3 winners of the two categories
Text votes results back to zero
FEB. 29, 2008
FRIDAY FOOD FAIR
6PM Lobby of Saipan Grand Hotel
GRAND FINALS
0201 Arriane Antonio
0202 Erika Tubera
0203 John Huevos
0204 Judy Anne Sanchez
0205 Lizelle Salanga
0206 Luouibelle Lavetoria
0207 Miguel Andrei Aninon
0208 Mozelle Campo
0209 Annabel Manzo
0210 Carmela Lumbad
0211 Darren John Cajipo
0212 Maria Christine Castro
0213 Mary Antoinette Alovera
0214 Matthew Lopez
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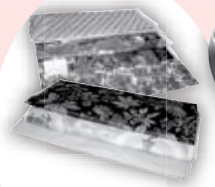
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Chicken Leg Quarter 22lb./case $16.99/cs.

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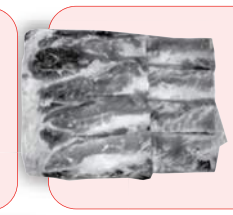
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USED CARS

STOCK	YEAR	MODEL	TRANS.	MILEAGE	COLOR	LICENSE #	PRICE
TOYOTA SEDANS							
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R07-016F	2005	MATRIX	AUTO	19890	GRAY	ABV-759	11,299
GM CARS							
U08-002P	2006	AVEO 4DR.	AUTO	9706	BLUE	ACE-586	8,999
U07-123P	2006	AVEO 4DR.	AUTO	9500	GRAY	ACE-688	8,999
R07-031F	2005	AVEO 4DR.	AUTO	68515	YELLOW	ABY-169	8,999
R07-035F	2005	AVEO 4DR.	AUTO	63367	WHITE	ACD-026	8,699
R07-013F	2005	AVEO HATCHBACK	AUTO	39164	ORANGE	ADO-022	7,899
R07-023F	2005	AVEO HATCHBACK	AUTO	32635	WHITE	ABX-679	9,599
R07-034F	2005	OPTRA 4DR.	AUTO	14592	SILVER	ACD-020	10,999
U07-075R	2005	EPICA 4DR.	AUTO	10098	BEIGE	ACA-204	8,999
TOYOTA TRUCKS							
R07-036B	2003	TACOMA 4X4 D/CAB	AUTO	85270	RED	ABR-739	15,999
R07-038F	2004	TACOMA 4X4 XTRACAB	AUTO	49609	BEIGE	ABV-159	11,899
R07-026F	2004	TACOMA 4X2 REG/CAB	MANUAL	46550	WHITE	ACA-308	9,999
OTHER CARS & TRUCKS							
U08-007P	2005	HYUNDAI SANTA FE 4DR.	AUTO	48717	BLACK	ACE-248	11,599
U07-106P	2004	HONDA CIVIC DX DR.	AUTO	50416	SILVER	ADF-401	8,999
U07-107P	2004	HONDA CIVIC DX DR.	AUTO	48755	SILVER	ADF-421	8,999
U07-108P	2004	HONDA CIVIC DX DR.	AUTO	45099	SILVER	ADF-431	8,999
U07-109P	2004	HONDA CIVIC DX DR.	AUTO	43869	SILVER	ADF-371	8,999
U07-034T	2000	NISSAN MAXIMA GXE 4DR.	AUTO	68648	WHITE	ACT-812	8,399
U07-104T	2003	NISSAN MURANO SE	AUTO	32000	PEWT	ABZ-615	16,799
U07-095T	1999	MAZDA MILLENIA 4DR. SEDAN	AUTO	91014	SILVER	ABP-583	7,999
U07-118T	2004	MAZDA MX3 4DR. SEDAN	AUTO	33366	SILVER	ADH-312	12,799
CONSIGNMENT	2001	FORD ESCAPE	AUTO	39530	BLUE	ABW-458	10,899
VANS							
U07-096	2000	SIENNA XLE	AUTO	92766	GRAY	ACO-561	8,999
R08-001F	2004	SIENNA LE	AUTO	164483	WHITE	ABY-567	12,999
SPORT UTILITY							
U07-064T	2001	4RUNNER 4WD	AUTO	56882	CHAMPAIGNE	ABY-153	13,599
U07-050T	2002	RAV4 4DR. 4WD	AUTO	39182	WHITE	ABW-677	12,799
U07-007T	2004	RAV4 4DR. 4WD	AUTO	41649	BEIGE	ACB-455	14,999
U07-082P	2004	RAV4 4DR. 2WD	AUTO	68919	GRAY		13,599

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2x6x14	$8.50/Pc	
2x6x16		$14.50/Pc
2x6x20	$11.90/Pc	

UTILITY LUMBERS

	Regular	Treated
2x4x12	$4.20/Pc	$6.20/Pc
2x4x14	$5.00/Pc	$7.00/Pc
2x4x16	$6.00/Pc	$8.20/Pc
2x4x18	$6.30/Pc	$9.60/Pc
2x4x20	$7.20/Pc	$10.50/Pc

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Roof tin 15% off
Shower room 35% off
Window 35% off
Cement board $4/pc
Downspout $8/pc
Squre bar $4/pc
Formica $5/pc
Ceramic tile $0.3/pc

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Letter to the Editor

Appalling behavior

I find it appalling to hear that the CNMI has lawmakers who choose to "turn the other cheek" and totally ignore the law when a close relative or their personal interest is at stake. I am speaking about the Senate's recent statement and position regarding who the next director of the Legislative Bureau should be.

Who is Glenna Palacios-Reyes? What is her relationship to Senate President Pete P. Reyes? Glenna Palacios-Reyes is currently serving as the deputy director of the Legislative Bureau and she is married to Senate President Pete P. Reyes. Now, pursuant to statute governing employment "conflict of interest" and "nepotism," are we to allow the Senate President to supervise his own spouse? Worse, allow a husband to hire his own wife. Mind you, the L.B. Director is appointed by the presiding officers of both Houses.

Let me remind everyone that when these legislators were sworn into office, they swore to uphold and defend the Covenant, the U.S. Constitution, the CNMI Constitution, and all laws (Federal and Local) that are made applicable to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. I guess these sworn statements are only good when relatives or personal interests are not involved.

This marks another sad day for the Commonwealth.

Albert Santos
Dan Dan

STOP

From Page 14

tors, who will work on bringing in more tourists—a possible domino effect of great things to come!

■ **CHC and Health**. Sadly, ignorance can also cause health problems. When people with health problems continue to eat the sweetest or saltiest, fattiest foods, smoke two packs a day, drink a six-pack of beer after work, and fail to get any exercise other than the brisk run they take into a convenient mart to buy more cigarettes while leaving the car running, they are putting a strain not only on their bodies, but also on CHC and our medical referral program. While we can't avoid all diseases, such as some forms of cancer and certain hereditary diseases, we can certainly work at making better decisions regarding our health. If we all listen to our good doctors and health professionals and eat healthy more often, quit smoking, stop drinking excessively, and exercise a few days a week, we can easily reduce the number of visits to CHC. To gain more funding for CHC, why don't we impose a higher cigarette tax? Wait, scratch that. Too many of our government leaders smoke, and we wouldn't want to hurt their pocketbook. How about a higher alcohol tax? Scratch that. That would make it hard to hold huge campaign rallies. So I guess the only thing we can really do is to take action and work toward achieving optimal health. By the way, I want to thank the hard-working doctors, nurses, and staff at CHC. They are grossly understaffed, not under-qualified. One thing we must all remember is that our doctors at CHC are not miracle workers and they do the very best they can, given the circumstances. Thank you CHC for taking care of my daughter when she had a febrile seizure and for calming me when I thought she was dying. Thank you for treating my nephew when he had a collapsed lung and for nursing him back to good health. Thank you for working double shifts and long hours, yet still managing to be comforting and kind, even managing to smile. To our ER doctors and Dr. Braig and the rest of the CHC family, *Dangkulu na si yu'us ma'ase, yan Olomwaay!*

I want Taotao Tatao to know that I have no ill feelings toward them, but I do disagree with many of the hurtful things they have been saying. Furthermore, I have no axe to grind with Greg Cruz, as I called him on Christmas Day to wish him and his family a Merry Christmas. I also asked him if we could have lunch or get together to discuss our differences. The invitation remains open.

I sincerely hope that we all take some time to educate ourselves on the current problems affecting the CNMI. Perhaps then will we start to see some light at the end of this long, dark tunnel. We have beautiful islands, kind and loving people, and an economy that can prosper if the right decisions are made and government laws and regulations are actually enforced. We have some great leaders in office right now, and I expect great change to take place in the near future. But change begins with each and every one of us. We can hold on to the status quo, or we can stand tall and speak out against corruption and poor decision-making that has so often benefited the elite few instead of the overall majority. I can never be Taotao Tano, because unfortunately my blood is not from this land I have called home for 33 years. But my heart and soul belong to this land and to its people, and that is far more important than any actual bloodline. While only a select group of people may become Taotao Tano, every one of us living in the CNMI is entitled to become a part of Taotao Marianas. Biba Taotao Marianas!

May God bless the CNMI.

Ed Propst
Familian Haolepino
Garapan, Saipan

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

GOP Precinct 1 Club meeting today

The GOP Precinct One Club will be conducting a general membership meeting to select three nominees for the GOP Central Committee.

At-large election for six delegates to represent the CNMI at the Republican National Convention on Sept 1-4, 2008, will be made on Feb. 23, 2008, by CNMI Convention.

The precinct club meeting will be conducted today, Feb. 8, 2008, Friday, at 5pm, at King's Plaza, Snac&Go Coffee Shop, in San Vicente, across from Joeten Supermarket. Only registered members are allowed to vote. Registration is open for any interested individual for a fee of just $2. ***(PR)***

Palauan association activity

Rufino Aguon, president of the Palauan Community Association CNMI, is announcing to all Palauans who reside on Saipan that there will be a heavy work to clean up the land on Navy Hill tomorrow, Feb. 9, 2008, from 8am to 5pm.

"Please come with your tools for work, such as knives, machetes, handsaws, small axes, bushcutters, chainsaws, and others," Aguon said. "For those who cannot make it, please donate water for drinking, or some kinds of food that can be eaten for lunch by the workers." ***(PR)***

Saipan Southern High activities

Parents/legal guardian of Saipan Southern High School students are being informed that the Mid-Progress Report is scheduled to be picked up on Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2008 from 4pm to 7pm. Parents/legal guardian must pick up the Mid-Progress Report at the teachers' classrooms. All students will be released at 1pm. There will also be a PTA meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2008 at 6pm in the cafeteria. Please join us. ***(PR)***

MHS Class of '83 meeting, birthday bash

Marianas High School Class of 1983 will be holding a very special meeting on Saturday, Feb. 16, 2008 at 4:30pm at the Kilili Beach Pavilion, Civic Center. This gathering will be to finalize attendees for the banquet night and also to celebrate Ed's birthday.

You may contact any of the Steering Committee members for details: Tonnei Camacho at 483-9665, Viola Kaipat at 483-0214, Ed Camacho at 483-5262, Jane Tudela at 234-9571, Frances Mildred Cruz at 483-0995, Ester Teregeyo at 285-6284, Ben Sablan at 287-1480, Diego Songsong at 287-4300. ***(PR)***

MMAC Team Captains' meeting set

The Marianas March Against Cancer Committee will have a team captains' meeting on Feb. 13, 2008, Wednesday, at 5:30pm at the Chamolinian Room of the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

The committee is inviting all current and previous team captains or their representatives to attend the MMAC Team Captains meeting so that important information can be discussed. Information on the upcoming 2008 Marianas March Against Cancer will be disseminated at the meeting.

MMAC is the signature fundraising event for the Commonwealth Cancer Association. All funds raised will be used locally. MMAC Committee members are also encouraged to attend the meeting so team captains and the community will be able to ask any questions they might have regarding this important event. For more information, email Chris A. Concepcion at chrisaconcepcion@gmail.com.

Golden Harvest school shines in PGFC tilt

The recently concluded PGFC Competition held at Kagman Elementary School on Feb. 2, 2008 gave another victory to the Golden Harvest International School. Most of the school's participants won in the competition. Coaches for the competition were Bona Angeles, Lorelisa Espiritu, Meliza Umali, and Rosalie Habijan.

Below are the winners who received awards:

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Golden Harvest International School students who participated in the recently concluded PGFC Competition held at Kagman Elementary School on Feb. 2, 2008.

K-2 Division

Dramatic Interpretation:
1st place: Natalie Montano
2nd place: Holly Sarah Liban
3rd place: Kai Andre Ortega

Duo A:

1st place: James Reyes & Francheska Gascon
2nd place: Kai Andre Ortega & Alyanna Mercado
4th place: En Ming Cacdac & Giselle Ivy Leong
5th place: Ronald Fuellas & Alfie Madlambayan

Duo B:

1st place: Clarisse Torio & Joanie Paraiso
2nd place: Francheska Fauni & Newlyn Jetter
4th place: Natalie Montano & Ydylle Faye Acosta

Choral Speaking A:

1st place: Daniel Montano, Emmanuel Cobacha, Stephen Seth Alonzo, Geuel Christian Villacrusis, Melvin Sean Hermoso
2nd place: Fernan Ramos, Allen James Aguilar, Angelo Talens
3rd place: Vincent Philip Salvador, Uzziel Cobacha, Gia Hemley, Ramhae Awit

Choral Speaking B:

1st place: Ydylle Faye Acosta, Ronald Fuellas, Clarisse Torio, Joanie Paraiso, Alfie Madlambayan
3rd place: Newlyn Jeter, Elizabeth Inos, Francheska Fauni, Tichina Tambiga

Humorous Interpretation:

1st place: Stephen Seth Alonzo
2nd place: Emmanuel Cobacha

3-5 Division

Choral Speaking:

1st place: Shekinah Grace Armea, Stevie Jeter, Riselle Iris Leong
3rd place: Nathaniel Montano, Isa Belle Seman, Tiffany Madlambayan, Cialena De Llamas

Dramatic Interpretation:

4th place: Shekinah Grace Armea

Duo B:

1st place: Stevie Jeter & Isa Belle Seman

Reader's Forum E:

1st place: Angelica Carla Diaz

Humorous Interpretation:

3rd place: Tiffany Madlambayan

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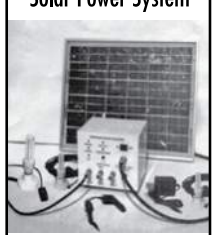
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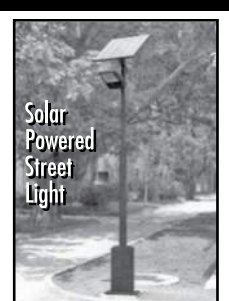
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And to show your appreciation to your love one, we will include 1 gift certificate from The SPA for every couple and homemade truffle chocolate free…
with Live Romantic Music
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Limited Seating
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Island Snapshots

POSING WITH THE BOSS
Palms Resort Saipan president/chief operating officer/general manager Hiroyuki Saito, third from left on first row, poses with the smiling staff members shortly after the opening ceremony of Palms Resort (formerly Nikko Hotel) on Feb. 1, 2008.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Lt. Gov. Timothy H. Villagomez and wife Margaret, Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela, Department of Corrections Commissioner Lino Tenorio, Miriam K. Seman, widow of Vicente Seman, son Arnold K. Seman, and other family members gather for a photo after unveiling of the Vicente Taman Seman Memorial Building in Susupe Saturday morning.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Lt. Gov. Timothy H. Villagomez and wife Margaret, and Department of Corrections Commissioner Lino Tenorio join Miriam K. Seman, widow of Vicente Seman, and son Arnold K. Seman for a group photo during the ribbon cutting for the new correctional facility, officially called the Vicente Taman Seman Memorial Building in Susupe Saturday morning.

TRAINING ENDS
Congratulations to PFC Shane Rios, who will be graduating from his Advance Individual Training in Fort Jackson, South Carolina on Feb. 7, 2008 (Feb. 8 Saipan time). Rios finished his basic training in Fort Hood, Kentucky and is a former graduate of Kagman High School where he was with the Ayuyu Battalion. Greetings come from the family.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MOTHEREAD TRAINERS
Certified Parent trainers Mary Jane Limes and Brian Manabat take a break during the CNMI Motheread/Fatheread Literacy Program's 10th Year Anniversary kickoff activity at the William S. Reyes Elementary School Saturday morning.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Office of the Governor

50 State Quarters® Program

The Office of the Governor, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), is seeking public input on the design of the CNMI Quarter, as provided for by the 50 State Quarters® Program. The 50 State Quarters® Program is a 10-year initiative (1999 - 2008) commemorating each of the 50 United States, as allowed by Public Law 105-124. Narrative design concepts or themes must be submitted by February 15, 2008, to the CNMI Quarter Commission at cnmiquarter@gmail.com.

Design Criteria

The 50 States Commemorative Coin Program Act provides for designs to be submitted in accordance with the design selection and approval process developed by and in sole discretion of the Treasury Secretary. Because it is important that the Nation's coinage and currency bear dignified designs of which the citizens of the United States can be proud, the Act further requires that the Secretary shall not select any frivolous or inappropriate design and no head-and-shoulders portrait or bust of any person, living or dead, and no portrait of a living person may be included in the design.

Guidelines

- Designs shall maintain a dignity befitting the Nation's coinage.
- Designs shall have broad appeal to the citizens of the state and avoid controversial subjects or symbols that are likely to offend.
- Suitable subject matter for designs include state landmarks (natural and man-made), landscapes, historically significant buildings, symbols of state resources or industries, official state flora and fauna, state icons (e.g.. Texas Lone Star, Wyoming bronco, etc.), and outlines of the state.
- State flags and state seals are not considered suitable for designs.
- Consistent with the authorizing legislation, the states are encouraged to submit designs that promote the diffusion of knowledge among the youth of the United States about the state, its history and geography, and the rich diversity of our national heritage.
- Priority consideration will be given to designs that are enduring representations of the state. Coins have a commercial life span of at least 30 years and are collected for generations.
- Inappropriate design concepts include, but are not limited to logos or depictions of specific commercial, private, educational, civic, religious, sports, or other organizations whose membership or ownership is not universal.

Additional information about the 50 State Quarters® Program may be found at www.usmint.gov/mint_programs.

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Valentine Package
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Valentine Dinner for 2
$129.00

BIRDS DONATED TO ZOO JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Saipan Zoo owner Frank Aldan, right, joins Palms Resort Saipan assistant general manager Ray C. de La Cruz, Palms Resort Saipan senior sales promotion manager Katsuhito Yamane and Palms Resort Saipan sales representative Minako Kayagaki during the turnover of exotic birds from Palms Resort Saipan to the Saipan Zoo Tuesday afternoon.

BUDGET TALKS JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Members of the CNMI Senate and Legislature gather for a budget meeting with Northern Marianas College officials at the House chamber on Capital Hill Friday afternoon.

SAIPAN ZOO 3

Saipan Zoo owner Frank Aldan shakes hands with Palms Resort Saipan assistant general manager Ray C. de La Cruz upon receiving an array of exotic birds for the zoo from Palms Resort Saipan Tuesday afternoon.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

TINIAN HOT PEPPER FESTIVAL

Date: February 16 – 17, 2008
Venue: Tachogna Beach
Time: 1:00 PM–10:00 PM Saturday
10:00 AM–10:00 PM Sunday

Featuring

The "Ukelele Wiz Kid" 13-year-old Ryan Imamura *from Guam*

Cultural Dances

Competitions *– Hot Pepper Eating Contest, Umang Race, Dragon Boat Rowing Contest, Katdun Pika Cooking Contest, Beach Volleyball, Mwarmwar Making Contest, Karaoke Singing Contest, "Do the Cha Cha" Contest & Booth Decoration Competition. Open to the public.*

Other island style musical entertainment *(Local Bands from Tinian & Saipan)*

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

Saturday, February 16

1:00 PM	Opening Program
	Judging of Booths
	Cultural Dances
	Taga Cultural Dancers
	"Guam's Ukalele Wiz Kid" Performance
2:30 PM	Beach Volleyball Competition
	Band Performance
5:00 PM	Hot Pepper Eating Contest
	Cultural Dances
6:00-10: 00 PM	Band Members
	Karaoke Singing Contest

SUNDAY, February 17

10 AM	Opening of Vendor Booths
11:00 AM	Dragon Boat Rowing Contest
	Mwarmwar Making Contest
12:00 Noon	Katdun Pika Contest
1:00 PM	Championship Games
	for Beach Volleyball
4:00 PM	Band Performance
5:00 PM	Hot Pepper Eating Contest
	Cultural Dances
	"Do the Cha Cha Contest"
8:00-10:00 PM	Band Performance

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Little King & Queen of Hearts photo tilt a success

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The winners of *Beach Road Magazine*'s Little King & Queen of Hearts photo contest. From left, Aleanah Reylene Seman, Best "Gain" Smile awardee; Zoie Keikiokanani Leong-Aguon, Little Queen of Hearts first runner-up; Parker Callier, Little King of Hearts first runner-up and Cutest Pose awardee; Alisa Victoria T. Gatharngeg, Best Eco-Friendly Outfit awardee; Jelaina Annorlyn Dela Cruz Santos, the Little Queen of Hearts; and Yonnie Ray Jr. Santos Dejillas, the Little King of Hearts.

GUALO RAI—On Jan. 23, *Beach Road Magazine* successfully concluded the Little King & Queen of Hearts photo contest with an awarding ceremony held in its offices at the second floor of the Transpac Business Center in Gualo Rai.

The contest was announced in the November 2007 issue of Beach Road Magazine. Thirty-six entries were accepted and had their photos taken by photographer Hideo Honda. The contest photos were published in the December 2007 issue of Beach Road Magazine and the community supported their favorite candidates via text votes.

Text voting started on Dec. 3, 2007 and ended with a total of 217,598 votes at midnight of Jan. 18, 2008. Aside from the winning Little King & Queen, special awards were also given to two runners-up and contestants with the Best "Gain®" Smile, Best Eco-Friendly Outfit and Cutest Pose.

The winning contestants were Yonnie Ray Jr. Santos Dejillas, Little King of Hearts; Jelaina Annorlyn Dela Cruz Santos, Little Queen of Hearts; Parker Callier, Little King of Hearts first runner-up and winner of the Cutest Pose award; and Zoie Keikiokanani Leong-Aguon, Little Queen of Hearts first runner-up.

Aleanah Reylene Seman won the Best "Gain®" Smile award and Alisa Victoria T. Gatharngeg, the Best Eco-friendly Outfit.

Dejillas won an LG 6100 camera phone from Pacific Telecom, Inc., $100 in cash from Glimpses of Saipan, and 8"x10", 4"x6", and wallet-sized photos of his contest shot courtesy of Rainbow Color. His lucky home partner, Melvin M. Camacho, who was chosen at random from among those who text voted for Dejillas, also received an LG 6100 camera phone from PTI.

Santos won an LG 6100 camera phone from Pacific Telecom, Inc., $100 in cash from Glimpses of Saipan, and a portrait frame from Rainbow Color. Her lucky home partner, Magdalena C. Santos, who was chosen at random from among her text voters also received an LG 6100 camera phone from PTI.

As the Little King runner-up, Parker received 8"x10", 4"x6" and wallet-sized photos of his contest shot from Rainbow Color. He also received two talking helmets from Carmen's Baby News and a gift certificate for an overnight stay for two at Saipan Grand Hotel for having been chosen as the contestant with the cutest pose.

Leong-Aguon received 5"x7", 4"x6" and wallet-sized photos likewise of her contest shot from Rainbow Color.

Seman received $150 worth of Gain School Advance Preschool Milk courtesy of Micronesian Brokers, Inc., and brunch for two at the Aoi Restaurants compliments of Saipan Grand Hotel.

Gatharngeg received a gift certificate from McDonald's and water park passes for four from Pacific Islands Club.

"This was an unprecedented event for and about children and we are humbled by the tremendous outpouring of support from the community and business owners," BRM manager Jojo Dass said.

The Little King and Queen of Hearts photo contest was sponsored by PTI, DPS, Saipan World Resort, Power 99, The Rock, Micronesian Brokers, Inc., Win Guide, Shirley's Coffee Shop, PHI Pharmacy, Lollipops, Saipan Grand Hotel, Rainbow Color, Carmen's Baby News, McDonald's, Foremost, and Subway. ***(PR)***

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Power outage at NMC campus area Saturday

The electrical system on the campus of the Northern Marianas College will be repaired by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. tomorrow morning, Feb. 9, resulting in a minor power outage for that area.

One power pole will be replaced that currently holds three major transformers. The pole had previously burned and has rotted presenting a danger to both campus students and the electrical system. CUC linemen will replace the pole and reconfigure the system beginning at 8:30 Saturday morning.

In order to work safely under the high voltage system and to safely facilitate the major/heavy equipment for these repairs, the power will be temporarily turned off at the campus and the area just behind NMC in Fina Sisu on Chalan Tan Antonio and Patma Place roads. Crews anticipate power restoration by 11:30am.

While the power is out, the linemen will complete other maintenance projects on the campus electrical lines that have caused recent power outages. On Wednesday, the entire Kiya I electrical grid faulted when power lines touched the campus pole due to decaying pole top equipment. The campus was without power from 11am Wednesday to 12:05pm. ***(CUC)***

Blues group celebrates Marley's bday

The Micronesia Blues Society presents a unique celebration of Bob Marley's birthday, called the "Bob Marley Birthday Blues Bash: Four Nights, Two Islands, One Love."

The first ever interisland celebration of the life and music of the reggae poet, Bob Nesta Marley, will be held on both Guam and Saipan from Feb. 7 through 10,

The party starts Thursday Feb. 7 at 9pm at Bully's at Pleasure Island, Tumon. Deep Pacific Blues takes the stage, and returns with the Hafa Adai Horns on Friday Feb. 8 at 7pm at the Mermaid Tavern, Guam's only brew pub, in Olde Hagatna.

Friday and Saturday, Feb. 9 and 10, the party moves to Saipan and Bud's Bar in downtown Garapan with a special early starting time of 8pm. Performing live will be Sam Joyner and One Love, Tinian Telecasters in Dub, and from Guam, Herb Daily and the Hut Rockers. Admission to all shows is free, and everyone is welcome.

Marley was born Feb. 6, 1945 in St. Ann's Parish, Jamaica. ***(PR)***

Recipients of scholarship program chosen

TUMON, Guam—On April 24, 2007, First Hawaiian Bank and *Guam Business* named Christine Ann Won Pat Baleto, general manager of Market Wholesale Distributors Inc., winner of the second annual Businesswoman of the Year award.

Proceeds from the awards gala were donated to the University of Guam for a scholarship program that encourages students to become successful businesspeople. Representatives from both First Hawaiian Bank and Glimpses Publications reviewed applicants for the scholarships. Applicants were judged on grades, involvement in the community and potential to become successful businesspeople.

Four scholarship recipients will be announced and presented with scholarship checks today, Feb. 8, 2008 at 3:30pm. ***(PR)***

Airman Alomia ends basic training

Alomia

Air Force Airman Michelle T. Alomia has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

During the six weeks of training, the airman studied the Air Force mission, organization, and military customs and courtesies; performed drill and ceremony marches, and received physical training, rifle marksmanship, field training exercises, and special training in human relations.

In addition, airmen who complete basic training earn credits toward an associate degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Alomia is the daughter of Susan Deblois and Cornelio Alomia, both of Saipan, Mariana Islands.

Alomia is a 2007 graduate of Marianas High School, Saipan.

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Two seatings are available, our Sunset Dinner starts at 5 p.m., and our Evening Seating begins at 8 p.m..

MENU - $65/person

- *Focaccia Bread with Balsamic Vinegar and Olive Oil*
- *Tuna Carpaccio with Pesto and Balsamic Sauce*
- *Chicken Tomatillo Salad with Cream Pumpkins Seed Dressing*
- *Lobster and Shrimp Soup with Coconut and Lemon Grass*
- *Angus Beef Tenderloin poached in Vodka with Herbs Butter Sauce, garnished with Crème Fraiche and Caviar, served on a Sweet Potato Pancake with Pearl Onions*
- *Crepes in Brandy Sauce with Berries & Chantilly Cream*

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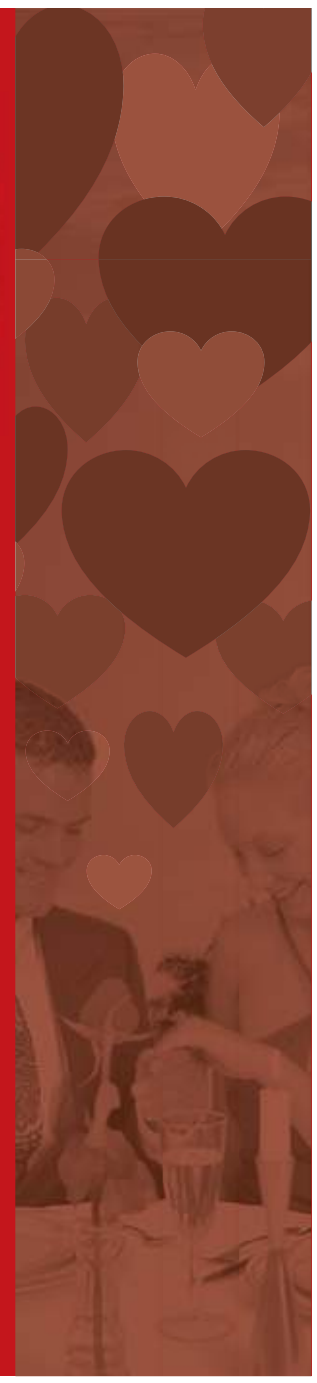

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Business

3 companies indicted in pet food case

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Two Chinese businesses and a U.S. company were indicted Wednesday in the tainted pet food incidents that killed dozens of animals last year and raised worries about products made in China.

Xuzhou Anying Biologic Technology Development Co., Suzhou Textiles, Silk, Light Industrial Products, Arts and Crafts I/E Co., and Las Vegas-based ChemNutra Inc. were charged in two separate but related indictments. The U.S. attorney's office in Kansas City said the tainted food led to the death and serious illness of pets in the U.S. last year.

One of the indictments charges Xuzhou Anying Biologic, located in China's Jiangsu Province, and Suzhou Textiles, in Suzhou, China, with 13 counts of introduction of adulterated food into interstate commerce and 13 counts of introduction of misbranded food into interstate commerce.

ChemNutra and company owners Sally Quing Miller, a Chinese national, and her husband, Stephen S. Miller were charged with 13 counts of introduction of adulterated food into interstate commerce, 13 counts of introduction of misbranded food into interstate commerce and one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud.

The indictments allege that Suzhou Textiles, an export broker, mislabeled 800 metric tons of wheat gluten tainted with the toxic chemical melamine to avoid inspection in China. Xuzhou then did not properly declare the contaminated product it shipped to the U.S. as a material to be used in food, the indictment says.

It also says the shipment was falsely declared to the Chinese government in a way that would avoid a mandatory inspection of the company's plants.

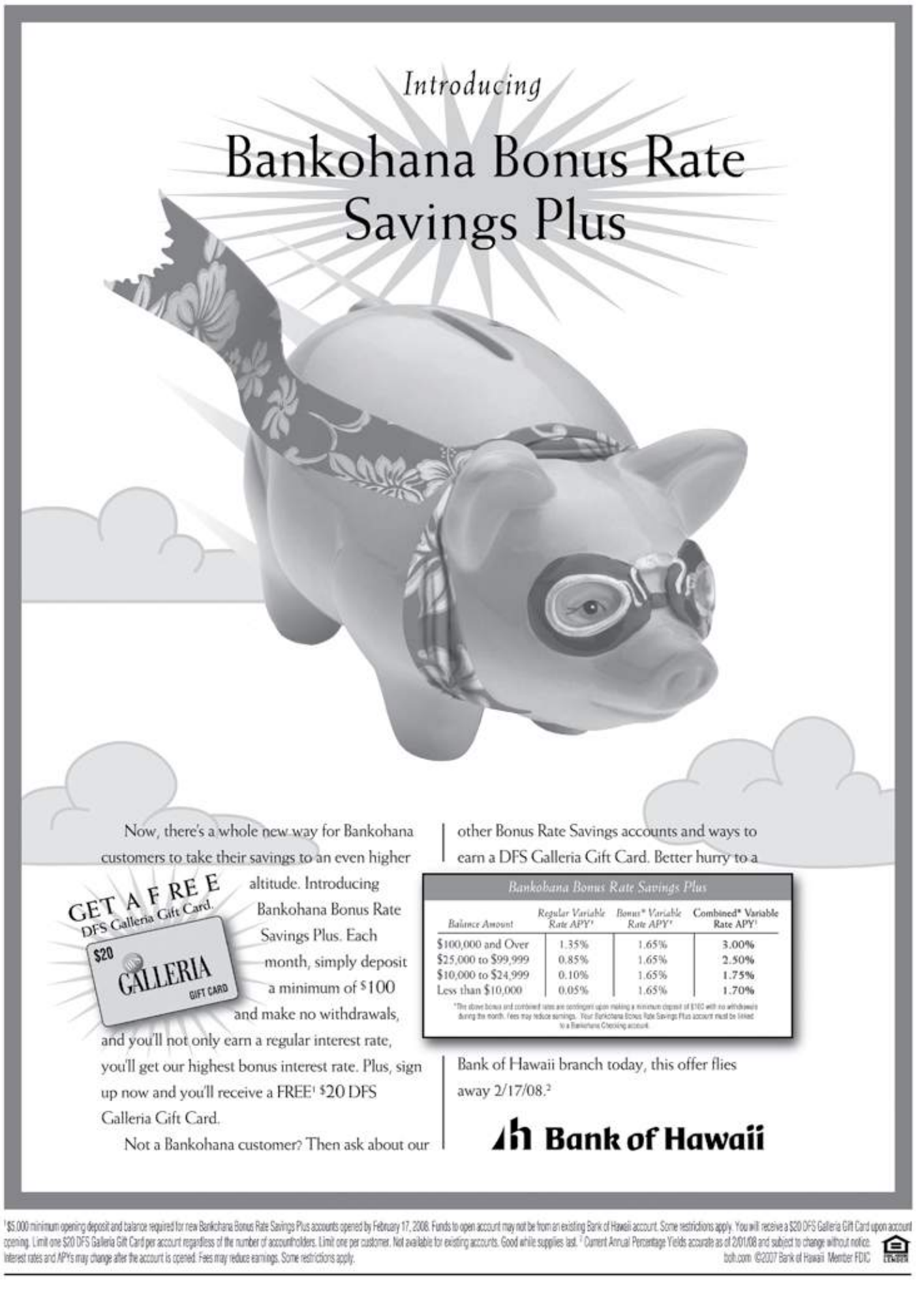
Productivity slowed in 4th quarter

WASHINGTON (AP)—Worker productivity, the key factor in rising living standards, slowed sharply in the final three months of the year as overall economic activity weakened considerably while labor pressures increased.

The Labor Department reported Wednesday that productivity, the amount of output per hour of work, increased at an annual rate of 1.8 percent in the October-December quarter, down from a 6 percent performance in the July-September period. The slowdown reflected the fact that overall economic activity skidded to a near standstill in the final three months of the year, with the gross domestic product rising at a barely perceptible rate of 0.6 percent.

Labor costs rose by 2.1 percent in the final three months of the year, after having fallen by 1.9 percent in the third quarter and 1.1 percent in the second quarter.

The increase in productivity in the fourth quarter was nearly double what economists had been expecting, while the rise in labor costs was slightly lower than expected. However, analysts cautioned that much of the strength in productivity reflected a sharp drop in the number of hours being worked by the self-employed, while the huge jump in the third quarter reflected the big increase in economic output in that period.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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Delta, Northwest inching closer to deal

ATLANTA (AP)—Delta Air Lines and Northwest Airlines are inching closer to a combination that would create the nation's largest carrier, and if a deal is reached it could be announced next week, a person briefed on the discussions told The Associated Press on Wednesday. Delta's board of directors is expected to meet over the next several days, the person said without elaborating on the topic of the meeting. Delta has a growing presence across the Atlantic and a strong hub in Atlanta, home to the world's busiest airport. Northwest has strong routes across the Pacific and its main hub is in Minneapolis.

Stocks extend Tuesday's drop

NEW YORK (AP)—Wall Street pulled back for the third straight day Wednesday as investors still uneasy about the economy sold off after a Federal Reserve official suggested rising inflation could prevent the central bank from making further interest rate cuts. The economy has been weakening but costs remain high, leading some economists to believe that the United States is headed for a troubling predicament known as stagflation. The Dow fell 65.03, or 0.53 percent, to 12,200.10, after rising more than 100 points in earlier trading.

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA 5,643.800 Down 33.800 (-0.60%)	HONG KONG 23,469.46 Down 1,339.24 (-5.40%)
JAKARTA 2,639.0869 Down 65.16 (-2.41%)	TOKYO 13,106.17 Up 6.93 (+0.05%)
K. LUMPUR 1,415.94 Down 16.41 (-1.15%)	MANILA 3,223.20 Down 5.64 (-0.17%)
SINGAPORE 2,931.97 Down 106.45 (-3.50%)	SEOUL 1,696.57 Up 6.44 +0.38%)
BANGKOK 796.07 Up 1.44 (+0.18%)	

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	12,200.10	-65.03
NASDAQ	2,278.75	-30.82
S&P	1,326.45	-10.19

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.121
British Pound	0.5103
Canadian Dollar	1.0071
Chinese Renmbi	7.1845
Euro	0.6842
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7991
Indian Rupee	39.475
Indonesian Rupiah	9242
Japanese Yen	106.38
Malaysian Ringgit	3.2315
New Zealand Dollar	1.2726
Philippine Peso	40.743
Singapore Dollar	1.4176
South Korean Won	944.5
Swiss Franc	1.0975
Taiwan Dollar	32.002
Thailand Baht	31.225

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

Pushing women past the fear of 'No'

By MARY ELLEN SLATER
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Great careers rarely happen by accident. If you want to be happy at work, the first step is realizing that your career is worth planning for. It's also worth fighting for.

WASHINGTON—With women earning college degrees and promotions in record numbers, do we really need yet another book telling us what we're doing wrong at work? Especially one that refers to us as girls? Ordinarily, I would say no, but the "The Girl's Guide to Kicking Your Career Into Gear" by Caitlin Friedman and Kimberly Yorio qualifies as an exception. The third installment in their "Girl's Guide" series offers a practical overview of what it takes to translate smarts and ambition into workplace success.

Great careers rarely happen by accident, Friedman and Yorio point out. "If you want to be happy at work, the first step is realizing that your career is worth planning for," they write. It's also worth fighting for. You have to go after what you want, without letting fear of rejection keep you down. "A lot of people are afraid of hearing the word 'no,' " Friedman said in a recent interview. "Instead of asking for something, they just resent not getting it."

Yorio and Friedman's advice is aimed at helping "girls" of all ages avoid that resentment and develop careers they love. That includes women who might otherwise bristle at being called girls beyond their Scouting days. "We don't really attach any baggage to the word 'girls,' " Friedman said. For her, it feels inclusive, like chatting with your girlfriends.

"The Girl's Guide" contains many useful tools for women struggling to figure out what they want and how to get it, including how to handle some of the biggest obstacles they are likely to face. Lessons about the importance of assertiveness and flexibility are underscored with stories from Yorio and Friedman's lives, as well as those of dozens of other successful women they interviewed while writing the book. "All of our books were inspired by our professional experiences," Friedman said, which have included major career changes for both women.

Some of my favorite advice from the book:

■ **Don't be afraid to negotiate.**

"Whether you notice or not, you negotiate almost every single day," Friedman and Yorio point out. "Weaving in and out of traffic is a negotiation with other drivers, navigating busy supermarkets, passing chores back and forth with your partner, all unremarkable yet familiar negotiations that hopefully don't get confrontational." Yet for a lot of women the thought of "negotiating" inspires dread. They tiptoe around it, hoping that if they just work hard enough, eventually their bosses will recognize their effort and give them what they secretly want. It would take a lot less energy just to ask. To help them out of that rut, Friedman and Yorio spell out practical, individual strategies for asking for raises, promotions, flexible schedules and even an assistant. Even if you don't get exactly what you want, they argue, you will still benefit from the process of asking.

■ **Don't be afraid of confrontation.**

Just be smart about it. "Most co-workers are not your friends, so throw out the notion of 'hurting their feelings,' " they write. Pull people aside in private and talk to them if they are doing something that hurts your work. "Keep the emotion out of your voice, get your facts right, be willing to listen and offer a solution to fix it from your end," they write. And pick your battles. People worth confronting, according to Yorio and Friedman: "credit hogs," "complainers," and "backstabbing phonies." Not worth your time: Those they dub the "crazies," "woe-is-me's" and "impossibles."

■ **Don't let stereotypes stop you.**

There are still plenty of people who make assumptions about the career commitment of women, especially working mothers, but you don't have to feel boxed in by those tired beliefs even as you acknowledge they are still there. Reviewing the recent studies on the perception of women and leadership skills was eye-opening for her, Yorio said in a recent interview. Perceptions won't change overnight, but we have to keep trying.

■ **Don't be afraid to sell yourself.**

Selling is what business is all about, even if your "business" is a nonprofit or government agency. "We laugh when we hear women say 'I won't sell.' You might as well say 'I won't breathe,' because the reality is that you are always selling ... your ideas, your point of view, and your personality," Yorio and Friedman write. "Selling is the whole ball game, girls, so grab a bat."

Ladies, dress to impress

By MARY ELLEN SLAYTER
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Individual careers—even individual offices—come with their own dress codes. Career expert Anna Ivey offers a few rules for young women who need to create a professional look to accompany a new job:

■ Leave the slides, whether flat or high-heeled, at home. They are not appropriate for most office environments.

■ Go easy on the jewelry and the perfume.

■ Choose skirts carefully. The best length is one that hits right below the kneecap, at the narrowest part above your calf, she says. That will also spare you the constant tugging when you try to sit down in a shorter skirt.

■ ■ ■

What's worse than being overworked? Being underworked, or so one recent survey by Sirota Survey Intelligence found. Some jobs have built-in downtimes, especially those that are seasonal. To keep your mind fit during the lulls, use the extra time to sharpen your skills. Inexpensive options: Take an online class or keep up with trade publications in your field.

DOLLARS AND SENSE

Midwinter house checkup

By DAVID UFFINGTON
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Midwinter is a good time to do a house checkup—especially this winter, when many parts of the country are experiencing surprisingly cold weather and high fuel bills. Here are some things to look for:

■ Check gutters and downspouts to make sure water isn't being diverted toward the foundation.

■ Check the attic with a flashlight for wet spots on rafters and roofing plywood. On the outside of the house, use binoculars to check from a distance for any missing shingles, especially around chimneys and vents.

■ Consider putting down extra insulation in the attic. Check for drafts around the attic access hatch.

■ Check for air leakage around windows. If you feel a cold draft, there's still enough winter left to make it cost effective to hang insulated drapes or put up the clear plastic you shrink with a hairdryer.

■ Walk around the house barefoot and check for cold drafts at floor level. Exterior doors, under windows and wall plugs, and in front of fireplaces are common places for air leaks.

■ If your laundry-room floor is cold, chances are the exterior flap on the dryer vent is to blame. Depending on the type, sometimes the spring breaks or sticks and the flap doesn't close, letting cold air come into the house through the dryer.

■ Check the interior perimeter of the basement for water leaks. Look for white residue on a concrete floor as a sign of a previous leak. If the basement is damp, invest in a dehumidifier.

■ If you have an unheated basement and have been lucky not to have frozen pipes, consider whether it's worthwhile to insulate the pipes now or to install heat tape.

■ Drain and insulate outside faucets if you haven't done it yet.

■ Change the furnace filter, if you haven't done it yet this winter.

■ Check the flooring at the front and back door. If you live in a snow area, look for salt and sand residue that can destroy the surface, especially of wood.

■ Buy an inexpensive hygrometer and check the humidity levels inside the house. Too low, and your wood furniture and flooring can suffer. Too high, and mold could develop.

By making a few fixes now, not only will you be warmer for the rest of the winter, but you'll save on your heating bills.

Nation

Despite warnings, tornadoes kill 55

LAFAYETTE, Tenn. (AP)—One man pulled a couch over his head. Bank employees rushed into the vault. A woman trembled in her bathroom, clinging to her dogs. College students huddled in dormitories. Tornado warnings had been broadcast for hours, and when the sirens finally announced that the twisters had arrived, many people across the South took shelter and saved their lives.

But others simply had nowhere safe to go, or the storms proved too powerful, too numerous, too unpredictable.

At least 55 people were killed and hundreds injured Tuesday and Wednesday by dozens of tornadoes that plowed across Mississippi, Arkansas, Tennessee, Kentucky and Alabama. It was the nation's deadliest barrage of twisters in almost 23 years.

"We had a beautiful neighborhood. Now it's hell," said Bonnie Brawner, 80, who lives in Hartsville, a community about an hour from Nashville where a natural gas plant that was struck by a twister erupted in spectacular flames up to 400 feet high.

The storms flattened entire streets, smashed warehouses and sent tractor-trailers flying. Houses were reduced to splintered piles of lumber. Some looked like life-size dollhouses, their walls sheared away. Crews going door to door to search for bodies had to contend with downed power lines, snapped trees and flipped-over cars. Cattle wandered through the debris near hard-hit Lafayette (pronounced luh-FAY-et). At least 12 people died in and around the town.

"It looks like the Lord took a Brillo pad and scrubbed the ground," said Tennessee Gov. Phil Bredesen, who surveyed the damage from a helicopter.

Hundreds of houses were damaged or destroyed. Authorities had no immediate cost estimate of the damage.

President Bush gave assurances his administration stood ready to help. Teams from the Federal Emergency Management Agency were sent to the region and activated an emergency center in Georgia.

"Loss of life, loss of property—prayers can help and so can the government," Bush said. "I do want the people in those states to know the American people are standing with them."

Students took cover in dormitory bathrooms as the storms closed in on Union University in Jackson, Tenn. More than 20 students at the Southern Baptist school were trapped behind wreckage and jammed doors after the dormitories came down around them.

Danny Song was pinned for an hour and a half until rescuers dug him from the rubble.

"We looked up and saw the funnel coming in. We started running and then glass just exploded," he said. "I hit the floor and a couch was shoved up against me, which may have saved my life because the roof fell on top of it."

With five minutes' warning from TV news reports, Nova and Ray Story huddled inside their home outside Lafayette and came out unscathed. But nearby, their uncle, Bill Clark, was injured in his toppled mobile home.

They put him in the bed of their pickup to take him to a hospital, and neighbors with chain saws tried to clear a path. What normally would have been a 30-minute drive to the hospital took well more than two hours because the roads were clogged with debris. Clark died on the way.

AP

A car lies among the tornado damaged dormitories and other buildings, on campus at Union University, on Wednesday, Feb. 6, 2008 in Jackson, Tenn.

Death and damage

ALABAMA: At least four people were killed in northern Alabama. An apparent tornado damaged eight homes in Walker County, and a pregnant woman suffered a broken arm when a trailer home was tossed by the storm, according to the county's emergency management director.

■ ■ ■

ARKANSAS: At least 13 people were killed, including a couple and their 11-year-old daughter in Atkins, about 60 miles northwest of Little Rock. Their home took a "direct hit" from the storm, an emergency official said.

■ ■ ■

INDIANA: A tornado cut a four-mile path southwest of Bloomington, blowing the roofs off several houses and downing trees and power lines.

■ ■ ■

KENTUCKY: At least seven people were killed, including a western Kentucky couple in their mobile home with their adult daughter.

■ ■ ■

MISSISSIPPI: A twister shredded warehouses in an industrial park in the city of Southaven, just south of Memphis.

■ ■ ■

TENNESSEE: At least 28 people were killed, including a 70-year-old man whose mobile home was leveled in Macon County.

A fire erupted at a natural gas pumping station northeast of Nashville that was struck by the storms. Twenty-six students had to be rescued from wrecked dormitories at Union University in Jackson, and 51 students were taken to a hospital. Wind collapsed the roof of Sears store at a mall.

Zoning Law Free Training!

The Zoning Office will give another public training session on the new Saipan Zoning Law. A special invitation is extended to those who plan to: build a new commercial or residential structure; repair or expand an existing structure; move a business into a new or existing building; maintain an existing sign or make a new one; continue or start an adult business; subdivide property; start a home business; or continue operating or maintaining a nonconforming building, or sign. The training is free and no pre-registration is required.

Where: **Multipurpose Center, Susupe**
When: **Tuesday, February 12, 2008.**
Session 1 - 8:30 am – 11:30 am
Session 2 - 1:30 pm– 4:30 pm
(same information as Session 1)

The Zoning Office in DanDan will be closed on Tuesday, February 12. Zoning staff will be available that day at the Multi-Purpose Center from 8:30 to 11:30 am and from 1:30 to 4:00 pm to answer questions and to take permit applications.

Attendees should bring a copy of the law to the training session for reference. Copies of the law and maps can be downloaded from www.zoning.gov.mp. The Zoning Office also has copies for sale for $10.00 at the 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan. Call 234-9663/7 for more information.

PUBLIC NOTICE
National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Department of Public Works with the assistance of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Honolulu District (USACE), and in cooperation with the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Insular Affairs, announce the availability of the Final Environmental Assessment (EA) and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) for the construction of a new Municipal Solid Waste Landfill (MSWL) on Tinian Island.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, the EA analyzed potential environmental impacts of the proposed MSWL. After considering a wide range of regulatory, environmental, and socio-economic factors, the EA did not identify any significant impacts to the environment (both natural and man-made) as a result of the construction and operation of the proposed MSWL.

The EA and FNSI are available for public review at the Joeten Kiyu Public Library (Saipan), and the Tinian Municipal Public Library (Tinian). If you would like to receive a copy of the EA and FONSI, please contact Mr. James Hatashima, USACE Project Manager at (808) 438-2264 or email at James.K.Hatashima@usace.army.mil

Comments on the EA and FNSI will be accepted until March 10, 2008. Written comments should be sent to: Mr. James Hatashima, Project Manager, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Honolulu District, Civil and Public Works Branch, (CEPOH-PP-C), Fort Shafter, Hawaii 96858-5440.

McCain widens lead, Clinton lends cash

WASHINGTON (AP)—Sen. John McCain padded his commanding delegate lead in the Republican presidential race Wednesday and urged conservative critics to cut him some slack. In a Democratic surprise, Hillary Rodham Clinton disclosed she'd lent $5 million to her cash-short campaign.

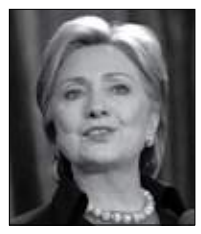
"And I think the results last night proved the wisdom of my investment," said the former first lady, one day after trading victories with Barack Obama in a Super Tuesday string of contests from coast to coast.

The competition for Republican delegates was a runaway.

McCain

Nearly complete returns from Super Tuesday left McCain with 703 delegates, nearly 60 percent of the 1,191 needed to win the nomination at the national convention in St. Paul, Minn., this summer.

Former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney had 293, former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee 190 and Texas Rep. Ron Paul 14.


Clinton

Despite steadily lengthening odds, neither Romney nor Huckabee offered any hint they were ready to exit the race.

McCain, the Arizona senator, said the nomination was his, though, and added he recognized there was work to be done to unify the party after acrimonious campaigning.

"I do hope that at some point we would just calm down a little bit and see if there's areas we can agree on," he said, one day in advance of an appearance before conservative activists who have shunned his candidacy.

The Democratic delegate count lagged, the result of party rules that shunned the type of winner-take-all primaries in states such as New York and New Jersey that helped McCain build his advantage.

On Tuesday's busiest primary night in history, Clinton and Obama were separated by 40 delegates, with several hundred yet to be allocated.

Overall, that left Clinton with 1,024, halfway to the 2,025 needed to secure the Democratic nomination. Obama was right behind with 933.

Delegates still to be allocated included 25 in New Mexico, where Democratic caucuses remained too close to call.

With little time to rest, both Obama and Clinton pointed toward the next contests, primaries in Louisiana, Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia plus caucuses in Nebraska, Washington Maine and the Virgin Islands over the next week. In all, those states offer 353 delegates.

Tennessee college ravaged by storms

JACKSON, Tenn. (AP)—Danny Song bolted for cover as a tornado tore through the dormitory complex at Union University—then the ceiling came crashing down on top of a couch that was wedged against him. For the next hour and a half, he lay pinned in the rubble.

"I was in a fetal position," the 20-year-old junior recalled Wednesday. "I tried to lift up but I couldn't. I was thinking I would lose my legs. I couldn't feel them for a long time. I just felt really helpless."

Rescuers ultimately dug him out, along with 25 other Union students who were stuck behind jammed and windows and the wreckage of walls, floors and furniture—damage wrought by the violent weather that swept across five states Tuesday.

The storm left more 50 people dead across the South. Remarkably, no one died here.

About 50 Union students were taken to a hospital, nine of them with injuries classified as serious, said Tim Ellsworth, the school's news director.

Though the small, private college was heavily damaged, school officials said students escaped life-threatening injury primarily because they quickly took shelter in dorm bathrooms and other interior spaces.

Tornadoes are a regular threat in Jackson, a city of about 60,000 people 75 miles northeast of Memphis.

The campus suffered damage from tornadoes in 2001 and 2002. In 2003, a tornado struck downtown Jackson, killing 10 people and tearing a path of crumpled buildings, twisted metal and toppled trees. In 1999, twisters killed 10 people in Jackson and Clarksville.

This time, emergency planning and broadcast warnings of the twisters prevented more serious injuries, university president David Dockery said.

Each dorm room and apartment on campus is required to have the school's tornado emergency procedures posted, according to a school handbook. All the buildings are equipped with alarms that warn of both tornadoes and fire.

AP

Tornado damaged dormitories and other buildings, along with most of the cars on campus at Union University in Jackson, Tenn., Wednesday, Feb. 6, 2008.

ACROSS THE NATION

Hate-crime count in W.Va. torture case

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP)—One of several white people charged in the suspected kidnapping, torture and sexual assault of a black woman has been indicted on a hate crime count, and two others have entered guilty pleas in the case. Six people arrested after Megan Williams was rescued in September had been charged with counts that carry maximum life sentences, but until Tuesday's indictments no one had been charged with a hate crime. The issue has been a sore point among many of Williams' supporters. Karen Burton, 46, of Chapmanville, was indicted Tuesday on charges of committing a hate crime, kidnapping and malicious wounding. Three others were indicted on counts including kidnapping, sexual assault and conspiracy.

One of last 2 WWI vets in US dies

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—Harry Richard Landis, who enlisted in the Army in 1918 and was one of only two known surviving U.S. veterans of World War I, has died. He was 108. Landis, who lived at a Sun City Center nursing home, died Monday, according to the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs. The remaining U.S. veteran is Frank Buckles, 107, of Charles Town, W.Va., according the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. In addition, John Babcock of Spokane, Wash., 107, served in the Canadian army and is the last known Canadian veteran of the war. Landis trained as a U.S. Army recruit for 60 days at the end of the war and never went overseas. But the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs counts him among the 4.7 million men and woman who served during the Great War.

Republicans are blocking stimulus bill

WASHINGTON (AP)—Senate Republicans blocked a move by Democrats on Wednesday to add more than $40 billion in checks for the elderly, disabled veterans and the unemployed to a bill to stimulate the economy.

The 58-41 vote fell just short of the 60 required to break a GOP filibuster and bring the Senate version of the stimulus bill closer to a final vote. The Senate measure was backed by Democrats and a handful of Republicans but was strongly opposed by GOP leaders and President Bush, who objected to the costly add-ons.

The vote left the $205 billion Senate stimulus bill in limbo and capped days of partisan infighting and procedural jockeying over the measure. Democratic presidential candidates Hillary Clinton of New York and Barack Obama of Illinois flew to Washington for the vote. GOP front-runner John McCain of Arizona did not vote.

Supporters actually had 59 votes in favor of the Democratic proposal, but Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada switched his vote to 'no' at the last moment, a parliamentary move that allows him to bring the measure up for revote.

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Asia

Pakistan: 8 killed in helicopter crash

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—A Pakistani army helicopter crashed Wednesday in northwestern Pakistan, killing three generals and five other soldiers, officials said.

The aircraft went down in South Waziristan, a rugged tribal region along the border with Afghanistan, the army's top spokesman Maj. Gen. Athar Abbas said.

The area has been the scene of intense fighting between Pakistani forces and Islamic militants, but Abbas said the pilot had reported an unspecified technical problem with the helicopter before the crash.

Militants had not fired on forces in the area for the past couple of days and the weather was "not bad" at the time of the crash, he said.

Among those killed was Maj. Gen. Javed Sultan, the top military commander for South Waziristan, Abbas said on Pakistan's Aaj TV. A military statement said the other victims included two brigadiers, a lieutenant colonel, three captains and an enlisted man.

Witness in RP corruption probe illegally held by cops, wife says

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A witness in a Philippine Senate corruption inquiry that has implicated President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's husband was taken into police custody Wednesday against his will, his wife said in a petition seeking his release.

Rodolfo Lozada Jr., an official of a government-owned company, faced an arrest warrant from the Senate for failing to attend a hearing last week when police whisked him out of Manila's airport after he returned from an official trip abroad, authorities and his family said.

His wife, Violeta, filed a Supreme Court petition seeking his release, while opposition senators said he was "kidnapped" to prevent him from exposing alleged corruption in a government broadband contract.

National police Chief Avelino Razon denied that Lozada was being held against his will, saying one of his siblings had requested "protective custody" for him because "they fear for his safety." He did not say who was threatening Lozada, or who asked that he be placed under protection.

ADDED PROTECTION

In this picture released by the Wildlife Conservation Society, a tiger is seen walking in the Phou Louey mountains in Laos in 2003 . Laos has agreed to improve protection at one of its key tiger reserves, a conservation group said Wednesday, Feb. 6, 2008, in a sign the country is recognizing the need to crack down on poaching and other threats to the animals.

AP PHOTO/WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY

New Thai government takes office

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)—Thailand made an uneasy return to elected government Wednesday, as a Cabinet packed with politicians of unsavory reputations tied to ousted Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra was sworn in by the king.

Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej leads a lineup criticized by the media and the public as unqualified, unsuitable and tainted by allegations of corruption.

The new Cabinet includes an interior minister accused of subverting justice and a deputy prime minister who was Thailand's first high-profile politician to be banned from public office.

Samak himself is under investigation for corruption stemming from his tenure as Bangkok's mayor; in finalizing his list of ministers, he called it an "ugly duckling" Cabinet.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Pakistani militants declare cease-fire

DERA ISMAIL KHAN, Pakistan (AP)—Taliban militants declared a cease-fire Wednesday in fighting with Pakistani forces, and the government said it was preparing for peace talks with al-Qaida-linked extremists in the lawless tribal area near the border with Afghanistan. Any deal that allows armed Islamic extremists to operate on Pakistani soil would run counter to U.S. demands for the government to crack down on militants.

India cracks down on rhino poaching

GAUHATI, India (AP)—Authorities in India's remote northeast will deploy 100 armed guards in a protected game reserve after poachers killed a rare one-horned rhinoceros—the fourth this year—a senior official said Wednesday. The adult male rhino was killed for its horn on Tuesday, less than three weeks after a mother and its calf were brutally killed at the same park.

High school athletes buried in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Students and families mourned Wednesday for seven high school baseball players and their coach, whose killing in a suicide attack at a train station devastated their school and left many questioning the cost of Sri Lanka's civil war. The attack Sunday killed 15 people, including the coach and more than half the baseball team from Colombo's prestigious D.S. Senanayake school.

US aid to fight Philippine child labor

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The United States said Wednesday it would provide $5.5 million to the Philippines to help combat the use of child labor. The initiative seeks to remove 18,000 children from hazardous work sites and professions and also aims to keep another 12,000 children from being exploited, the U.S. Embassy said in a statement. The Department of Labor will provide the money through World Vision, the Christian Children's Fund, and the Education Research and Development Assistance Foundation.

World

President says he's in control of Chad

N'DJAMENA, Chad (AP)—Chad's president declared himself in control of the country Wednesday, even while acknowledging that three-fourths of his government had disappeared since rebels attacked the capital.

Deby

For the first time since the assault began, more people were crossing bridges toward N'Djamena than away—apparently heeding a government call to return. Government forces pushed rebels out of the capital after weekend battles that left hundreds dead and sent thousands fleeing.

President Idriss Deby wore a military uniform as he received reporters in the presidential palace to make his first public comments since the coup attempt.

He denied reports that he had been injured as N'Djamena was besieged, spreading his arms wide and saying, "Look at me, I'm fine."

"We are in total control, not only of the capital, but of all the country," Deby said after meeting with the French defense minister, who came to Chad in a show of support for the government.

Oil-rich Chad has accused Sudan of backing the rebels in an attempt to prevent deployment of a European force to protect refugees from the war-ravaged Darfur region that borders Chad. Sudan has long resisted such a force, but has denied involvement in Chad's coup attempt.

Gaza rocket wounds 2 Israeli girls

JERUSALEM (AP)—Hamas militants fired a rocket into an Israeli border village, wounding two young sisters as they played outside their home. The attack followed Israel airstrikes against Gaza militants and threats of an "all-front" war on the Islamic group.

The rapid-fire events threatened to escalate into large scale combat that could bury U.S.-led Mideast peace efforts.

Hamas stepped up its rocket barrages at southern Israel for a second day, retaliating for an Israeli strike that killed seven of its police officers. More than a dozen rockets rained down, one exploding at Kibbutz Beeri, a communal village about four miles from the border fence.

Two sisters, ages 12 and 2, were lightly wounded as they played in their yard, police said. Their mother was taken to a hospital for shock.

Israel unleashed an intensified air campaign after Hamas claimed responsibility for a suicide bombing Monday that killed one woman in southern Israel. It was the first such Hamas attack in Israel in more than three years.

AP confirms secret camp inside Gitmo

GUANTANAMO BAY NAVAL BASE, Cuba (AP)—Somewhere amid the cactus-studded hills on this sprawling Navy base, separate from the cells where hundreds of men suspected of links to al-Qaida and the Taliban have been locked up for years, is a place even more closely guarded—a jailhouse so protected that its very location is top secret.

For the first time, the top commander of detention operations at Guantanamo has confirmed the existence of the mysterious Camp 7. In an interview with The Associated Press, Rear Adm. Mark Buzby also provided a few details about the maximum-security lockup.

Guantanamo commanders said Camp 7 is for key alleged al-Qaida members, who must be kept apart from other prisoners to prevent them from retaliating against long-term detainees who have talked to interrogators. They also want the location kept secret for fear of terrorist attack.

WORLD BRIEFS

Ecuador's Tungurahua volcano erupts

QUITO, Ecuador (AP)—Ecuador's Tungurahua volcano shot columns of ash miles into the air on Wednesday, as officials ordered the evacuation of 3,000 villagers living near its slopes. Some 1,000 villagers from the western flanks of the 16,575-foot volcano fled their homes for shelters at dawn, said Mauro Rodriguez, director of Civil Defense. He said 11 families who refused to leave, fearing looters, were removed by force. Juan Salazar, the mayor of the nearby village of Penipe, said 3,000 people needed to be evacuated—a figure that included the 1,000 villagers who had already fled.

Cubans speak out on Castro's invitation

HAVANA (AP)—Taking up Raul Castro's invitation to speak their minds without fear of reprisal, more Cubans have begun publicly complaining and challenging government policies on everything from limits on Internet access to travel restrictions. This week some leading figures called for change: Culture Minister Abel Prieto said that he supports gay marriage, and famed folk singer Silvio Rodriguez said he believes all Cubans should be free to travel abroad and stay in the hotels reserved for foreign tourists.

Turkish lawmakers remove head scarf ban

ANKARA, Turkey (AP)—Lawmakers voted early Thursday to approve a constitutional amendment allowing female students to enter universities wearing Islamic head scarves—a move some Turks see as a threat to the traditional separation of church and state. Lawmakers voted 401-110 in a preliminary vote in favor of the government's proposed amendment to the secular constitution. The government has defended its plan as a reform needed to give its citizens religious liberty and bring Turkey in line with European Union human rights guidelines. A second and final round of voting was slated for Saturday.

US: al-Qaida in Iraq training children

BAGHDAD (AP)—Boys in soccer jerseys don black masks and grab weapons. They scramble over mud-brick walls, blast down doors and hold guns to the heads of residents inside. The U.S. military said videos seized from suspected al-Qaida in Iraq hideouts show militants training children who appear as young as 10 to kidnap and kill. It's viewed as a sign that the terror network—hungry for recruits—may be using younger Iraqis in propaganda to lure a new crop of fighters. "Al-Qaida in Iraq wants to poison the next generation of Iraqis," said Rear Adm. Gregory Smith, a U.S. military spokesman. "It is offering children as the new generation of mujahedeen," he added, using the Arabic term for holy warriors.

Off the Wall

Court: Mom can't sue over circumcision

ST. PAUL (AP)—The Minnesota Court of Appeals has ruled that a mother who didn't like the way her baby's circumcision looked cannot sue a Fridley hospital for medical malpractice.

Dawn Nelson sued Unity Hospital and Dr. Steven Berestka, claiming the doctor removed "the most erogenous tissue" after the boy was born on Jan. 21, 2000—without consulting either parent. Nelson and the boy's father, David Nelson, were unhappy with the result.

But the Appeals Court noted in its Tuesday decision that the mother indicated on a prenatal form that the baby should be circumcised.

Attorney Zenas Baer, who is representing the mother and son, said he was disappointed with the court ruling.

He said federal regulations say there has to be a signed informed consent form before any surgery—and he argued that a checked-off box on a form regarding circumcision is beside the point, saying "isn't the mom allowed to change her mind?"

Baer said his client plans to appeal.

Dawn Nelson initially sued the doctor, alleging assault and battery and negligence. That claim was settled separately. The claims against Unity Hospital and its parent company, Allina Health System, went forward.

Nelson claimed the hospital had a duty to verify that the doctor obtained informed consent and she claimed the hospital had been deceptive or misleading in its informed consent policy.

A Hennepin County judge disagreed and dismissed the case. The appellate court affirmed the lower court decision.

As for the child, another surgeon "performed a revision for cosmetic purposes" shortly after the initial circumcision, the ruling said.

Mark Whitmore, an Allina attorney, said the company was pleased with the ruling.

According to Baer's Web site, he "contributes substantial amounts of time to ending the barbaric practice of routine infant male circumcision worldwide, insuring genital integrity for all citizens of the world."

Man sets station on fire over playlist

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—A volunteer at a community radio station set fire to the station because he was upset that his song selections for an overnight Internet broadcast were changed, police said.

Paul Webster Feinstein, 24, has been charged with second-degree felony arson for the Jan. 5 fire that caused $300,000 damage to the studios of 91.7 FM KOOP. He faces from two to 20 years in prison and a $10,000 fine if convicted.

Feinstein told investigators that he was "very unhappy" about the changes to his playlist, said Austin Fire Department Battalion Chief Greg Nye. The songs were intended for an Internet broadcast that occurs when the station is off the air.

"He had a dream of a career in radio and was very disappointed about where it had led him," Nye said.

An attorney for Feinstein could not be reached for comment.

Station president Andrew Dickens said Feinstein had been in a dispute with another volunteer about what kind of music should be put into a digital library for the Internet program.

Feinstein was a jazz fan and his Internet program was called "Mellow Down Easy," Dickens said.

"We knew there was a disagreement, but I would characterize it as a little clash of personalities over types of music to be played and not a big blowout," Dickens said.

Feinstein, who had volunteered at the station for about a year, quit a week before the fire, saying he was going to do other things, Dickens said.

"He seemed like somebody who was young, enthusiastic, had a life, was a professional and was educated," Dickens said.

Nye said Feinstein acknowledged making a copy of the station key and then waiting for the station to clear out on the night of Jan. 5. Feinstein poured gasoline on the control panels in two studios to start the fire, Nye said.

Beer gets seatbelt. Child doesn't

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla. (AP)—Police have arrested a motorist they say had a 24-pack of beer strapped in with a seat belt but had a 16-month-old girl unrestrained in the back seat with the toddler's mother.

Tina D. Williams was pulled over in St. Augustine on Sunday for allegedly running a red light.

A 24-pack of Busch beer was strapped in with the passenger-side seat belt, according to an arrest report. The girl was in the back seat with 20-year-old Amber Tedrick, who is the toddler's mother.

Williams, 46, said she didn't know why the child wasn't restrained.

Williams refused to take a breath test and a deputy found two metal pipes commonly used to smoke drugs in her purse, authorities said.

Williams was charged with driving under the influence, child abuse, possession of drug paraphernalia and driving without a license, a jail official said. She remained in the St. Johns County jail Tuesday after bail was set at $31,000.

The jail did not have the name of her attorney. It was not clear if Tedrick would face any charges, but the child was released to her care, according to The Florida Times-Union.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Store clerk robbed twice in one evening

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (AP)—Two different armed robbers hit a Grand Rapids convenience store in one evening, taking money from the same store clerk on both occasions. Tommy Gutierrez, 31, works at the Shell station on the city's northwest side. The robbers struck a little more than two hours apart on Sunday night. Gutierrez told WZZM-TV he gave the thieves what they asked for and no one got hurt. Gutierrez said he has no plans to quit his job at the store because he has bills to pay and a wife and children to support.

Man charged in break-in, counterfeiting

GOLDONNA, La. (AP)—A man was arrested for allegedly breaking into a home and trying to use the computer there to make counterfeit money. Charles Chase Nobles, 28, was booked Tuesday into the Natchitoches Parish Detention Center on one count each of counterfeiting, unauthorized entry of an inhabited dwelling and probation violation, according to a press release from Natchitoches Parish Sheriff Victor Jones Jr. Goldonna Police Chief Kenneth Martin and Natchitoches sheriff's deputies made the arrest after getting a call at about 1 p.m. Tuesday from a citizen who reported seeing a suspicious vehicle parked in woods behind a Goldonna residence. Martin and the deputies found Nobles inside. The computer was seized as a part of the ongoing investigation.

Couple get no help for decapitated ram

CLYDE TOWNSHIP, Mich. (AP)—A St. Clair County couple is having a hard time getting rid of a decapitated sheep from their property. Trudy and Mike Diller found the dead ram in a ditch near their Clyde Township home on Jan. 30. The next day, they discovered someone had cut off its head. The Dillers called the sheriff's department to ask that it be disposed. Officials told them to call the county road commission, only to find out it couldn't help either. The Times Herald of Port Huron reports the sheep is classified as a domestic animal, not the wildlife commonly found as road kill. Jennifer Holton with the Michigan Department of Agriculture says the Dillers should bury the animal themselves, if they can't find the owner.

Man makes fans miss end of Super Bowl

BRENTWOOD, Calif. (AP)—Police have arrested a man on suspicion of crashing his car and causing a power outage that disrupted the Super Bowl for thousands of football fans. Luis Mendoza, 31, was arrested on misdemeanor driving under the influence charges for allegedly running into a power pole and short-circuiting TV reception for 8,300 customers in Brentwood during the final minutes of the Super Bowl. Mendoza was arrested at John Muir Medical Center in Walnut Creek where he was being treated for leg injuries. Football fans missed the final two touchdowns that led to the New York Giants' upset of the New England Patriots. Pacific Gas & Electric says all but 23 customers got their electricity back within two hours of Sunday's accident.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT NO. 08-01
United States District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands

DOCKET CLERK

Location: GARAPAN, SAIPAN, MP PERMANENT FULL-TIME
Grade CL-24 $28,806 per annum, plus 25% COLA
(With promotion potential to CL-26, $35,040 to $57,000 plus COLA)

OPEN: February 7, 2008 CLOSING DATE: February 14, 2008
The Court reserves the right to withdraw or extend the closing date for this position.

Position Overview:
This position is located in the Clerkís Office of the U.S. District Court, in Saipan. The incumbent receives and reviews documents for conformity with federal and local rules, including electronic case filing from Internet users, and assists with case management. The incumbent also acts as cashier, assists with courtroom operations, and assists with shelving of law library materials. Information is at: http://www.nmid.uscourts.gov

Minimum Qualifications:
Applicants must be a high school graduate or equivalent and must have two years general experience and one year specialized experience, which has provided a good understanding of office clerical practices and knowledge of legal procedure and or legal pleading. Applicants must also have excellent office computing skills.

Educational Substitutes:
Education above high school level in accredited institutions may be substituted for the general experience on the basis of one academic year equals nine months of general experience.

Desirable Qualifications:
An Associate (AA or AS) college degree is desirable. Applicants should possess the ability to exercise mature judgment and the ability to communicate effectively in writing and orally. Strong legal office and/or administrative work experience is desirable.

Other Requirements:
Applicants are required to be U.S. citizens or aliens who are authorized to work in the United States. The selected candidate will be subject to a background check as a condition of employment. All appointments subject to mandatory electronic funds transfer (Direct Deposit) for payment of net pay. Applicants selected for interviews must travel or relocate at their own expense. The incumbent is subject to a six (6) month probationary period.

Application Procedure:
Each applicant is required to submit a cover letter; plus an AO-78 application form, and a five-year salary history. Optional resume may be included with AO-78 application. AO-78 forms are on the Internet at: http://www.nmid.uscourts.gov, or may be picked up at the U.S. District Court. Submit applications by hand delivery, or by fax or email with originals mailed and postmarked by closing date, to:

Clerk of Court
United States District Court
for the Northern Mariana Islands
2nd Floor, Horiguchi Building, Garapan
P.O. Box 500687, Saipan MP 96950

(Fax 670-236-2910 galo_perez@nmid.uscourts.gov)

The U.S. District Court is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Science & Technology

Pill-sized camera can be swallowed

AP
University of Washington researcher Tom Johnston shows how a tiny tethered laser scanner, ingested orally, gives a view of Johnston's teeth, Jan. 25, 2008 at the University of Washington in Seattle. The device is designed to help diagnose esophageal cancer.

SEATTLE (AP)—Technology that doctors expect will help detect precancerous cells faster and less painfully also could someday take cameras to parts of the body where no camera has gone before.

Cameras the size of pills could "put eyes on tools" for laparoscopic surgery, snake inside a bile duct or fallopian tube, or weave their way deeper inside a person's lungs than any non-surgical device has been able to go.

Unlike a standard endoscope, which is almost a centimeter wide and can only be inserted into the esophagus after a patient is sedated, a new device invented at the University of Washington consists of seven fiber optic cables encased in a capsule about the size of a typical pain killer.

The device is aimed at detecting early signs of esophageal cancer, which is the fastest growing cancer in the United States.

In addition to its size, the main advantage of this invention is its cost—a few hundred dollars compared to more than $5,000 for the standard scope.

The technology's primary developer, Eric Seibel, a research associate professor of mechanical engineering, is the only human who has tried the device so far. He says sliding the tiny camera down your throat is like swallowing a pill attached to a string.

"Never in your life have you ever swallowed anything and it's still sticking out of your mouth, but once you do it, it's easy," he said.

The camera's 1.4-mm-thick tether allows the doctor to move the camera around and pull it back up once the five- or 10-minute test is finished.

Human testing of the device is set to begin in about a month at the Seattle Veterans Administration hospital.

A larger, more expensive, but untethered pill camera was developed by an Israeli company in 2000 to test for intestinal cancer. Seibel said the disadvantages of the wireless camera are that doctors have no control over its path and it cannot be reused because it completes its voyage through the digestive system.

HELP FILE

By ROB PEGORARO
(c) 2008, The Washington Post

Q: Somebody just e-mailed me a ".docx" file. Is this a Microsoft Word file? Why can't my copy of Word open it?

A: You've received a document created in Microsoft Office 2007. The "x" at the end of the usual ".doc" file-name extension means it was saved in one of Office 2007's new, more efficient file formats, which older Office releases can't read without a free update from Microsoft.

To get that add-on, go to microsoft.com/office and type "Microsoft Office Compatibility Pack" in the search form. Downloading and installing it will enable Office 2000, XP and 2003 to read and write the 2007 formats.

If you use a Mac, Microsoft's just-shipped Office 2008 supports the new formats, and a free file converter for Office v.x and 2004 is available at microsoft.com/mac/downloads. Apple's $79 iWork '08 can read, but not write, these files.

Office 2007 users can avoid compatibility problems by telling Office to stick with the older formats. In Word, Excel and PowerPoint, click the round Office button at the top-left corner of the window, then click the Options button in the drop-down menu that will appear. Now click the Save category at the left of the Options window. In the "Save files in this format" menu, choose the previous format for each program: "Word 97-2003 Document (*.doc)," "Excel 97-2003 Workbook" and "PowerPoint Presentation 97-2003."

■ ■ ■

Q: After my laptop was stolen, I was fortunate enough to get it back. But although I had a user password on the PC, I worry that somebody looked at my files.

A: Unless you hire a crew of CSI technicians, you can't ensure that somebody didn't snoop around your files. The best you can do is change any passwords saved on the machine and keep a close eye on your financial accounts.

Video chat software introduces recording

NEW YORK (AP)—A new version of video chat software ooVoo released this week allows users to record chats, perhaps to post them to video-sharing sites like YouTube or just to keep them for posterity.

The free software from New York-based ooVoo is a video-oriented competitor to eBay Inc.'s Skype. It allows video conferencing with up to six participants, while Skype supports only two-party video calls and is more focused on voice communication.

Skype video can be recorded through third-party programs.

Apple Inc.'s iChat does multi-party video chats, and a recording feature was introduced with Leopard, the company's latest operating system.

The new 1.5 version of ooVoo also adds features found in other chat programs: visual effects and the ability to call U.S. phones. The first two hours of calls are free. The company hasn't said how it plans to charge for additional calling.

Recording of calls without the knowledge of all participants is illegal in many U.S. states so the program notifies participants that they are being recorded.

Oovoo is available for Windows PCs only. A Macintosh version is in the works.

Life & Style

MARK RABAGO
Tony Roma's Ledilaine Galvan shows off the restaurant's Valentine's Day Dinner Special that will be offered until Feb. 17.

Tony Roma's and Capricciosa set the mood for Valentine's Day

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Tony Roma's and Capricciosa are making the day of hearts extra special as they are once again pairing their signature meals with the red Italian sparkling wine Fragolino Rosso this Valentine's Day.

General manager Akira Onishi invites romantic couples to savor Tony Roma's Valentine's Day Dinner Special, which is made up of the restaurant's lip-smacking St. Louis Ribs and Kickin' Shrimp Combo with Toasted Garlic Seared Green Beans and Rice Pilaf, with a complimentary glass of Fragolino.

Kickin' Shrimp—tender shrimp fried to a crispy golden brown and tossed in a creamy sauce exploding with flavor—is one Tony Roma's newest chasers and has become a crowd favorite the past few months.

As an added treat, Onishi-san has also included for free Tony Roma's Apple Crisp a la Mode dessert, which is a delicious blend of apple cinnamon and sugar baked to golden perfection with a granola topping, with a generous scoop of vanilla ice cream and caramel topping.

The whole meal can be had for an affordable price of $20.99

Next door, Onishi-san said Capricciossa is pairing the Fragolino Rosso wine with delectable entrees romantic couple would truly love and set the mood for a date to remember—Smoked Salmon Balloon Salad, Escargot in Garlic Butter Sauce, Seafood Spaghetti, Spicy Grilled Chicken with Rosemary, and Pumpkin Pie.

For a mere $39.99, lovers can enjoy Capriciossa's Valentine's Day Dinner Special together with two glasses of Fragolino Rosso, which is distributed exclusively by Pacific Wines & Spirits here in the Marianas.

Onishi-san said the two restaurants' promotions will run until Feb. 17.

For reservations, call Tony Roma's at 233-9193 or Capricciosa at 233-9194. The two restaurants are open from 11am to 10:30pm everyday.

IF YOU GO

For reservations, call Tony Roma's at 233-9193 or Capricciosa at 233-9194. The two restaurants are open from 11am to 10:30pm everyday.

Tony Roma's is proud to serve "The Best Ribs in the World," as judged in a nationwide U.S. contest. Today, there are more than 250 Tony Roma's locations on five continents and it all started with the barbecue sauce made with a special base, and juicy ribs prepared by a method unique to Tony Roma's.

Capricciosa, meanwhile, is a fun and casual restaurant with large servings of Italian food. It was heralded as the "Italian Eatery with a Line," and as the pioneer of casual Italian dining, it gave rise to the Italian restaurant boom. Capricciosa has expanded into 150 restaurants in Japan, Chinese Taipei, Philippines, Korea, Guam, and Saipan, and is visited by approximately 12 million customers each year.

Accidental overdose killed Ledger

NEW YORK (AP)—The actor Heath Ledger died from an accidental overdose of six different drugs—painkillers and sedatives—the medical examiner said Wednesday, leading doctors to warn of the dangers of mixing prescription drugs.

The 28-year-old film star died "of acute intoxication" from the combination of two strong painkillers, two anti-anxiety medicines and two sleeping aids, according to the medical examiner's office.

Ledger

Among the drugs found in his body were oxycodone, a painkiller sold as OxyContin and used in other pain relievers such as Percodan and Percocet. Others included drugs sold as anti-anxiety pills Valium and Xanax, which are sedatives.

The medical examiner and police wouldn't identify the medications Ledger had in his apartment when his body was discovered on Jan. 22, nor would they discuss who had prescribed them.

The Drug Enforcement Administration is investigating how Ledger obtained the medications and whether they were prescribed illegally. It's common for investigators to review prescriptions when so many drugs are involved in an overdose death, said spokesman Rusty Payne.

Doctors not connected with the case said it would be unlikely for one doctor to prescribe all the drugs. However, they said it's not unusual for people to be prescribed both painkillers and sedatives, and overdoses are not uncommon.

"This is not rock star wretched excess," said Cindy Kuhn, a pharmacology professor at Duke University. "This is a situation that could happen to plenty of people with prescriptions for these kind of drugs."

Kuhn said some of the drugs are long-lasting and Ledger could have taken them over a period of several days. The medical examiner's office wouldn't say what concentrations of each drug were found in Ledger's blood.

"What you're looking at here is the cumulative effects of these medications together," said the spokeswoman, Ellen Borakove.

Police had said they found six bottles of anti-anxiety medicines, sleeping pills and other medicine in his Manhattan apartment after the Oscar-nominated actor was discovered dead in his bed last month.

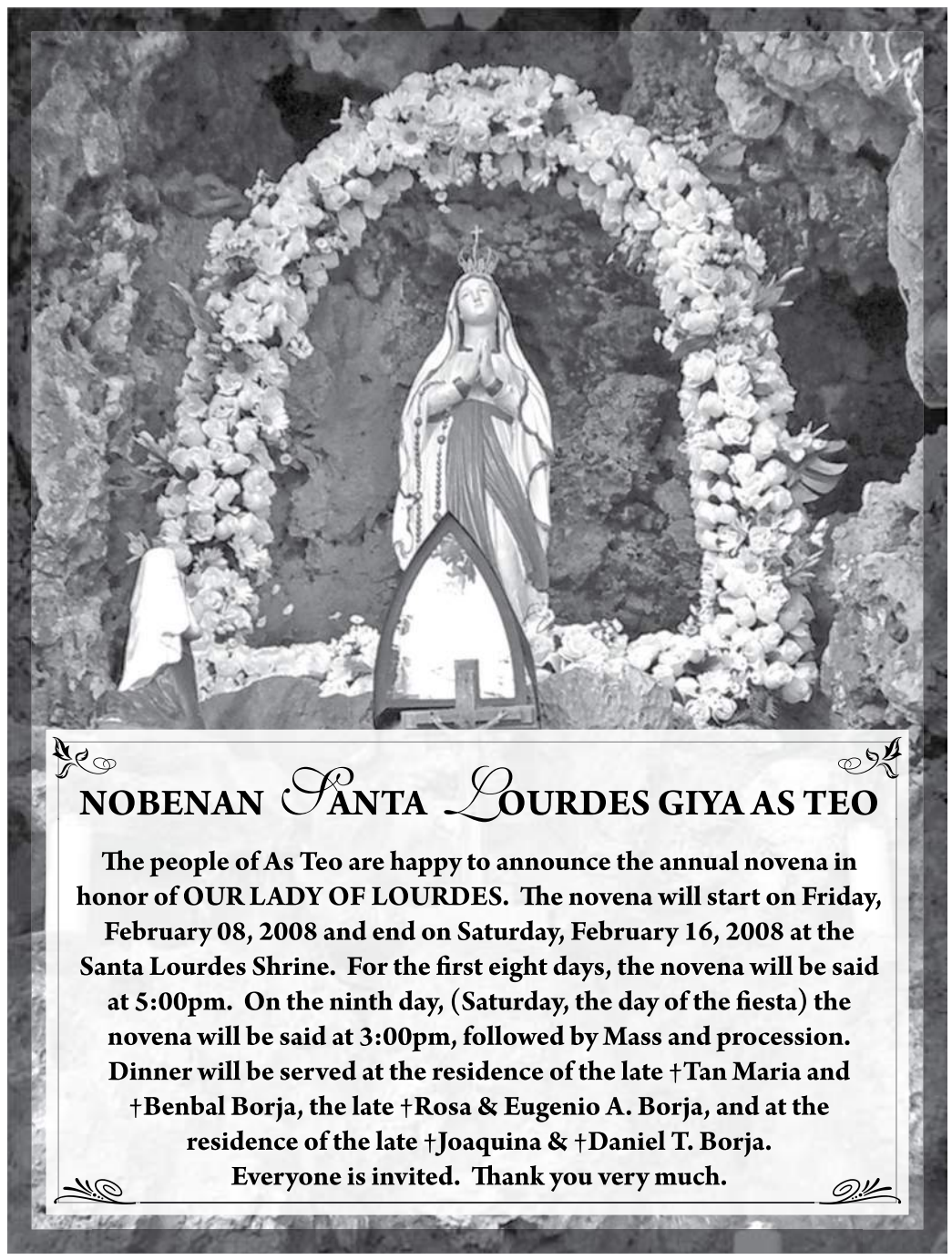
"This was not a deliberate attempt to kill himself. This was an accident," said Lawrence Kobilinsky, head of forensic science at John Jay College in New York. He had no role in the investigation. "He just took too many drugs having similar effects on the central nervous system."

Experts said the combination of sedatives and the other medicines likely combined to suppress his brain function and his breathing. They said that Ledger probably had been prescribed the medicine by a number of different doctors, because several of them were from the same class of drugs and used to treat similar symptoms.

"It doesn't make sense" that one doctor would prescribe all those, said Dr. William Lee, an internal medicine specialist at the University of Texas-Southwestern in Dallas. "It's more likely that he got them from different prescribers."

Jane Prosser, a medical toxicologist from New York University School of Medicine, said patients can often end up with similar medications prescribed by different doctors, who are unaware of what they're already taking.

Three of the six prescription drugs found in Ledger's apartment had been filled in Europe, where the actor was recently filming, police said.


NOBENAN SANTA LOURDES GIYA AS TEO
The people of As Teo are happy to announce the annual novena in honor of OUR LADY OF LOURDES. The novena will start on Friday, February 08, 2008 and end on Saturday, February 16, 2008 at the Santa Lourdes Shrine. For the first eight days, the novena will be said at 5:00pm. On the ninth day, (Saturday, the day of the fiesta) the novena will be said at 3:00pm, followed by Mass and procession. Dinner will be served at the residence of the late †Tan Maria and †Benbal Borja, the late †Rosa & Eugenio A. Borja, and at the residence of the late †Joaquina & †Daniel T. Borja.
Everyone is invited. Thank you very much.

BEST SELLERS

(c) 2008 Los Angeles Times

FICTION

The Senator's Wife, by Sue Miller (Knopf: $24.95) A bride learns from a politician's long-suffering wife.

Blasphemy, by Douglas Preston (Forge: $25.95) Scientists at the world's largest supercollider uncover secrets to the world's future and past.

People of the Book, by Geraldine Brooks (Viking: $25.95) A rare-books expert traces the history of a priceless Jewish tome to 15th century Spain.

Beverly Hills Dead, by Stuart Woods (Putnam: $25.95) A Hollywood screenwriter is summoned before the House Un-American Activities Committee.

Plum Lucky, by Janet Evanovich (St. Martin's: $17.95) Stephanie Plum's latest caper involves a big bag of money, plus-size modeling and a case of hives.

Three Shirt Deal, by Stephen J. Cannell (St. Martin's: $24.95) Shane Scully tries to save a convict whose murder confession was coerced.

A Thousand Splendid Suns, by Khaled Hosseini (Riverhead: $25.95) Two Afghan women struggle to survive jihad, civil war and Taliban tyranny.

T Is for Trespass, by Sue Grafton (Putnam: $26.95) Kinsey Millhone suspects elder abuse and becomes ensnared in a case of identity theft.

The Shooters, by W.E.B. Griffin (Putnam: $26.95) A Delta Force officer seeks a missing U.S. agent kidnapped by South American drug dealers.

A Version of the Truth, by Jennifer Kaufman and Karen Mack (Delacorte: $24) A woman falls in love with her boss.

NONFICTION

In Defense of Food, by Michael Pollan (Penguin: $21.95) A clear-eyed look at dietary sacred cows.

Tom Cruise, by Andrew Morton (St. Martin's: $25.95) An unauthorized biography aims to tell the unvarnished life story of the Hollywood megastar.

Born Standing Up, by Steve Martin (Scribner: $25) The comedian reflects on the evolution of his art.

The Secret, by Rhonda Byrne (Beyond Words: $23.95) Life's secrets distilled from oral tradition, literature, religion and philosophy.

Become a Better You, by Joel Osteen (Free Press: $25) Change through prayer and good habits.

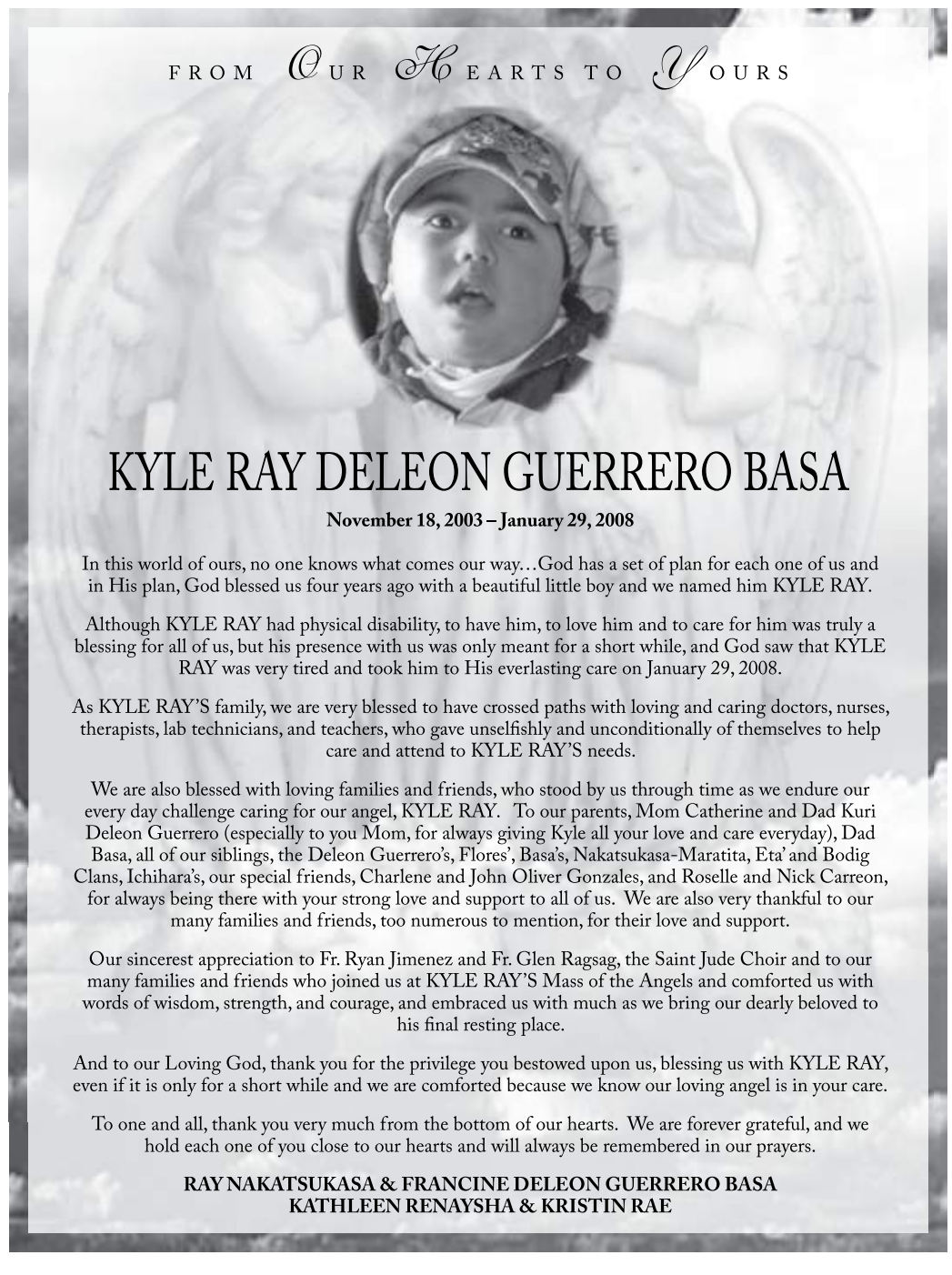
Creating a World Without Poverty, by Muhammad Yunus with Karl Weber (PublicAffairs: $26) The Nobelist on his micro-loan business.

The Dangerous Book for Boys, by Conn and Hal Iggulden (HarperCollins: $24.95) Learn how to tie knots, find true north and other skills.

Principles of Uncertainty, by Maira Kalman (Penguin: $29.95) Wry musings on life from the New Yorker illustrator and children's book author.

Musicophilia, by Oliver Sacks (Knopf: $26) The medical storyteller explores the link between music and its myriad effects on the human brain.

The Daring Book for Girls, by Andrea J. Buchanan and Miriam Peskowitz (HarperCollins: $24.95) A girls' handbook of skills and must-have knowledge.


FROM OUR HEARTS TO YOURS
KYLE RAY DELEON GUERRERO BASA
November 18, 2003 – January 29, 2008
In this world of ours, no one knows what comes our way…God has a set of plan for each one of us and in His plan, God blessed us four years ago with a beautiful little boy and we named him KYLE RAY.
Although KYLE RAY had physical disability, to have him, to love him and to care for him was truly a blessing for all of us, but his presence with us was only meant for a short while, and God saw that KYLE RAY was very tired and took him to His everlasting care on January 29, 2008.
As KYLE RAY'S family, we are very blessed to have crossed paths with loving and caring doctors, nurses, therapists, lab technicians, and teachers, who gave unselfishly and unconditionally of themselves to help care and attend to KYLE RAY'S needs.
We are also blessed with loving families and friends, who stood by us through time as we endure our every day challenge caring for our angel, KYLE RAY. To our parents, Mom Catherine and Dad Kuri Deleon Guerrero (especially to you Mom, for always giving Kyle all your love and care everyday), Dad Basa, all of our siblings, the Deleon Guerrero's, Flores', Basa's, Nakatsukasa-Maratita, Eta' and Bodig Clans, Ichihara's, our special friends, Charlene and John Oliver Gonzales, and Roselle and Nick Carreon, for always being there with your strong love and support to all of us. We are also very thankful to our many families and friends, too numerous to mention, for their love and support.
Our sincerest appreciation to Fr. Ryan Jimenez and Fr. Glen Ragsag, the Saint Jude Choir and to our many families and friends who joined us at KYLE RAY'S Mass of the Angels and comforted us with words of wisdom, strength, and courage, and embraced us with much as we bring our dearly beloved to his final resting place.
And to our Loving God, thank you for the privilege you bestowed upon us, blessing us with KYLE RAY, even if it is only for a short while and we are comforted because we know our loving angel is in your care.
To one and all, thank you very much from the bottom of our hearts. We are forever grateful, and we hold each one of you close to our hearts and will always be remembered in our prayers.
RAY NAKATSUKASA & FRANCINE DELEON GUERRERO BASA
KATHLEEN RENAYSHA & KRISTIN RAE

Barker donates $1 million to alma mater

LOS ANGELES (AP)—He's no longer the host of "The Price Is Right," but Bob Barker is still giving away major money.

The venerable game-show host and animal activist said Wednesday that he is donating $1 million to his alma mater, Drury University, to establish an undergraduate animal-ethics program.

Barker

"It's incredible that I ever was able to go back to Springfield and give them a million dollars, because when I was there, I didn't have 15 cents," Barker told The Associated Press, adding that he graduated from the Missouri school in 1947. "What I'm hoping is that this will become a model for other undergraduate schools."

Over the past decade, Barker has donated millions to establish animal-rights curricula at law schools nationwide, including Harvard, Columbia and Northwestern.

He created those programs to encourage aspiring lawyers, judges and politicians to consider animal rights in their work, he said.

The new undergraduate program may have an even broader reach, Barker said.

"If young people are introduced to the terrible exploitation and mistreatment of animals in society, it will help influence them in anything they do," he said.

Since taping his last "Price Is Right" episode in June, the 84-year-old TV star has devoted himself to animal activism, his pet cause for almost 30 years. Barker is behind legislation to make the spay-neuter of pets mandatory in Los Angeles and statewide.

"For 25 years, I've been closing every `Price Is Right' by urging people to have their pets spayed and neutered, and it did help. ... But it hasn't been enough," he said. "When your education and encouragement fail, you have to have legislation."

After 50 years on television, Barker said he is "a complete success at retirement."

"I can tell now I've been meant for this all my life," he said. "I'm so busy, I don't know how I ever had time to do `The Price Is Right.'"

Diddy pushes youth to vote once again

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Four years ago, Sean "Diddy" Combs took his hip-hop swagger across the nation in an effort to get young people to vote, with the bold slogan "Vote or Die." Now the entertainer has just a simple message: Go vote.

"If we want to stop the war, if we want to get the economy better, I think that young people need to understand they have to take matters into their own hands," Combs, 38, told The Associated Press in a telephone interview Monday. "It is really like waking up a sleeping giant."

Some political analysts believe the youth vote could be a key factor in this year's presidential election.

More than 20 states are holding primaries Tuesday that will help determine the eventual Democratic and Republican nominees for president. Sen. Hillary Clinton is locked in a close race with fellow Sen. Barack Obama on the Democratic side, while Sen. John McCain could further cement his front-runner status over former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney in the Republican race.

Combs launched the nonpartisan group Citizen Change in 2004 to increase the youth vote, and used his celebrity status to raise voting awareness among the youth. Statistics suggest voter turnout among young people increased in 2004 and 2006, and Diddy believes it will grow even more this political season.

"The seeds that we planted in '04 are now coming to fruition," he told the AP. "A lot of young people have decided that this is their future. This president is going to decide their future."

Back then, Combs refused to endorse a candidate and is keeping to that policy this time around, for now, at least.

"I didn't really want to get in the political game but I wanted to see young people become empowered," he said. "That's where my attention is at."

Oscar nominees hopeful show will go on

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Optimism was in the air among Academy Awards nominees—both on their films' prospects and the chances that Hollywood's crippling writers strike will end in time for the Oscars show to go on as planned.

"I'm a positive individual. I think the sun will come up tomorrow," said Viggo Mortensen, a best-actor contender for the crime tale "Eastern Promises," who was among about 120 nominees attending an annual Oscar luncheon Monday. "I think that there will be a proper Oscars, and I think that 'Eastern Promises' has a good chance to win an award."

The fate of the Oscars on Feb. 24 remains uncertain but looks brighter as the Writers Guild of America makes progress on a new contract with producers that would end the union's three-month-old strike.

Insiders say writers and producers made a breakthrough on negotiations late last week that has left everyone in Hollywood hopeful that the labor quarrel would be settled. That would allow the Oscars to avoid the fate that has been looming since the Golden Globes, whose glitzy telecast was scrapped after stars made it clear they would stay away in honor of writers' picket lines.

AP

A preview of the set design for the 80th Academy Awards ceremony is shown at the The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, AMPAS, in Beverly Hills, Calif., Wednesday, Feb. 6, 2008. Academy Awards for outstanding film achievements of 2007 will be presented on Sunday, Feb. 24, 2008, at the Kodak Theatre at Hollywood & Highland Center, and televised live by the ABC Television Network beginning at 5 p.m. PT.

"I don't think it's looming anymore," said Brad Bird, an Oscar winner for best animated film with "The Incredibles" who is nominated in the same category for "Ratatouille." "I think it's more like hiding in the bushes."

George Clooney, a supporting-actor winner for "Syriana" who is nominated as best actor this time for the legal drama "Michael Clayton," repeated his vow that he would not attend the Oscars if it meant crossing picket lines. But he said the deal in the works between writers and producers has a good shot at success.

Nominees said they would be thrilled if the Oscars could go on, though it was more important that hardships be resolved for writers and others in Hollywood unemployed by the strike, which has shut down TV productions and delayed some movies.

FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY

We, the family of the late

†Cpl. Lee Roy Apatang Camacho

invite all our families, relatives, and friends to join us in prayer as we commemorate the first year anniversary of our dear beloved.

Daily Mass will be offered at Mount Carmel Cathedral of the following dates

Friday, February 01	**6:00AM**
Saturday, February 02	**6:00AM**
Sunday, February 03	**9:00AM**
Monday, February 04	**6:00AM**
Tuesday, February 05	**6:00AM**
Wednesday, February 06	**6:00AM**
Thursday, February 07	**6:00AM**
Friday, February 08	**6:00AM**

On the final day, Saturday, February 09, 2008, Mass will be said at 6:00AM followed by breakfast at Joeten DaiDai Social Hall.

Thank you and Dankulu Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase.

From
Velma M. Camacho and Children

Vanity Fair cancels annual Oscar party

LOS ANGELES (AP)—It's typically the hottest party in town on Oscar night—but not this year.

Vanity Fair has canceled its annual Academy Awards party, the magazine announced Tuesday.

"After much consideration, and in support of the writers and everyone else affected by this strike, we have decided that this is not the appropriate year to hold our annual Oscar party," said a statement posted on VanityFair.com.

"We want to congratulate all of this year's nominees and we look forward to hosting our 15th Oscar party next year," the magazine said.

The annual post-Oscar soiree often lures more luminaries than the ceremony itself. The night's big winners and nominees typically turn out, along with A-listers including Oprah Winfrey, Madonna, Cher, Sean Penn, Joni Mitchell and Al Gore.

The Feb. 24 party was scrapped even though the writers guild is said to be on track for a possible deal with studios, possibly as soon as this week.

Vanity Fair editor Graydon Carter decided to cancel the party after talking with West Coast friends and colleagues, said magazine spokeswoman Beth Kseniak.

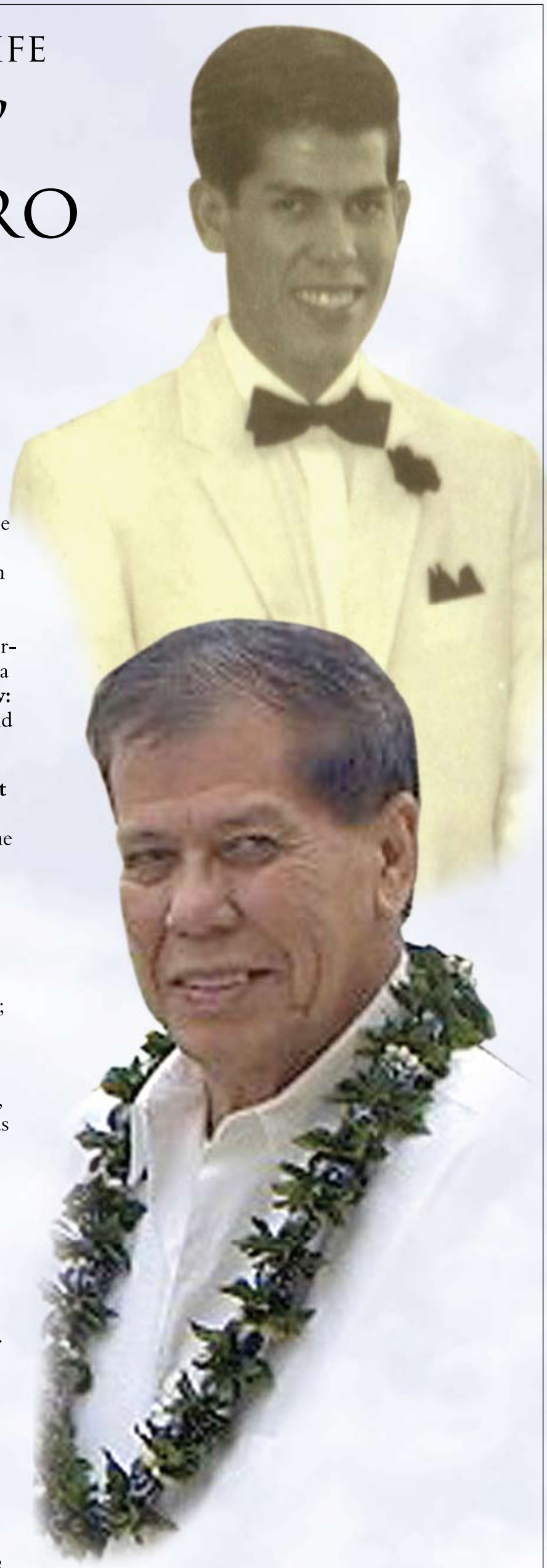
He decided that even if the three-month writers strike was resolved before the Academy Awards, its affect on Tinseltown was likely to linger.

"Inasmuch as Vanity Fair is a collection of writers, photographers and artists, we do feel ourselves in aligned solidarity with the writers, directors and actors in the film business," Carter said in a statement.

In Celebration of His New Life

John "Manuel" Deleon Guerrero Pangelinan

fondly known as "Ne and JP"



October 26, 1937 – February 5, 2008
of Saipan (formerly of Guam) was called
to his eternal rest on Tuesday, February 5, 2008 at the age of 70

In his passing, he now joins:
Wife: Dolores Perez Pangelinan **Children:** Joseph Pangelinan; Doris Marie Pangelinan; Joseph Pangelinan; Joseph Pangelinan; John Pangelinan; **Grandchild:** Dulcenea Maria Pangelinan; **Parents:** Angelina Diaz Deleon Guerrero & Joaquin Sablan Pangelinan; Magdalena Terlaje Pangelinan; **Parents-in-law:** Salvador Sr. & Hattie Kaihemakawalu Mamae Perez; **Sister:** Margaret Pangelinan Flores Kintol; **Brothers:** Gonzalo Deleon Guerrero Pangelinan; Alejo Aldan & Jesus Aldan; **Brothers-in-law:** Edward Ada Flores, Herman Kintol, Gilbert Ada & Dr. Jose Villagomez. **Sisters- in-law:** Ramona Perez & Evangeline Hartley; **Brothers-in-law & Spouse:** Reginald Charles Perez; Salvador Jr. & Concepcion San Nicolas Perez.

He will be forever missed but fond memories and his peaceful spirit will be lovingly treasured and remain in the hearts of his:
Children and Grandchildren: Donna Angelina Pangelinan; Lisa Christine Pangelinan (Jared); John J. & Gina Fejarang-Pangelinan (Audora, Joaquin, Angelina and Audreana); Jay Mitchell & Jennifer Contreras-Pangelinan (Alexandra, Ryan and Aubree); Jennifer Lynn Pangelinan ; Christie Leigh Sablan **Reared Son:** Edward Pangelinan Flores.

Brothers/Sisters and Spouses: Isabel & Segundo Duenas; Selina Stein; Rita Villagomez; Sophia & Pedro Tenorio; Herman & Christie Pangelinan; Gordon (Gonzalo) & Alice Pangelinan; Evelyn & Gregorio Calvo; Faustina Ada; Felix Torres; Geri Aldan.

Lifelong Family Friends: Siu Lin Tan & Pek Kim Lam Tan; Henry Tan, Willie Tan, Lily Chou, Raymond Tan, Jerry Tan, Sunny Tan and numerous other nephews and nieces, cousins and close friends.

Mass of Intentions is offered daily at 6:00 AM at Mt. Carmel Cathedral with the Holy Rosary prayed at 6:30 PM at the Residence of Rita P. Villagomez – As Lito, Saipan.

On Tuesday, February 12, 2008, his remains will be escorted from Borja Funeral Home to Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 9:00 AM. Visitation will start at 10:00 AM. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 AM.

On Wednesday, February 13, 2008, his remains will be escorted to Saipan International Airport at 1:00 PM for departure to California for interment services. Upon his arrival in California, his remains will be escorted to Holy Cross Mortuary in Culver City, CA.

Viewing and last respects will be held on Friday, February 15, 2008 at Holy Cross Mortuary in Culver City, CA.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Saturday, February 16, 2008 at American Martyrs Catholic Church in Manhattan Beach, CA at 10:00 AM.
Burial will follow at Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery in Culver City, CA.

Spears released from LA hospital

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Britney Spears was quietly released from a hospital Wednesday, a stark contrast to the way she came in—with an extensive escort of more than a dozen police officers in cars, on motorcycles and in helicopters, paparazzi in tow.

Her incognito getaway from UCLA Medical Center required no police, said Capt. Sharyn Buck, commander of the North Hollywood police station, which covers the area where Spears' home is located.

"There was no media, no paparazzi, and no need for public safety protection," Buck said.

The troubled singer was hospitalized Jan. 31 and held for a 72-hour evaluation that was originally set to expire Sunday. Her stay was then extended for two weeks, a person close to the pop star told The Associated Press, which may explain why she was able to avoid attention on her way out.

Spears remains under the temporary conservatorship of her father, an arrangement created after a judge determines a person can no longer care for themselves or their personal affairs. Her father, James, was named conservator of Spears, and he and attorney Andrew Wallet were made co-conservators of the estate.

As her conservator, Spears' father has been granted access to all of her medical records and authority to determine where Spears lives and who she sees.

Spears, who is in a child custody battle with ex-husband Kevin Federline, was also briefly hospitalized earlier in January after police were called to her home when she refused to return her sons to a Federline bodyguard after a visit. That trip to the hospital occurred amid a swarm of paparazzi.

Spears has since lost all visitation rights.

AP

Britney Spears sits in the passenger seat of her car as an unidentified man drives in Beverly Hills, Calif. on Wednesday, Feb. 6, 2008.

Spears' parents fear for her life

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Britney Spears' parents said Wednesday they believe the pop star's life is at risk following her early release from a hospital psychiatric ward over the recommendation of her treating psychiatrist.

In a joint statement given to The Associated Press by their attorney, Jamie and Lynne Spears said they were "extremely disappointed" to learn their daughter had been released.

"As parents of an adult child in the throes of a mental health crisis, we were extremely disappointed this morning to learn that over the recommendation of her treating psychiatrist, our daughter Britney was released from the hospital that could best care for her and keep her safe," the statement said.

"We are deeply concerned about our daughter's safety and vulnerability and we believe her life is presently at risk. There are conservatorship orders in place created to protect our daughter that are being blatantly disregarded. We ask only that the court's orders be enforced so that a tragedy may be averted."

After Spears' release, which came a week earlier than expected, she spent the day dodging paparazzi as she drove around Los Angeles in a black Mercedes-Benz with an unidentified man.

Paparazzi vehicles zoomed around the Mercedes and photographers surrounded the vehicle at each stop. More than 15 people circled the car at one point, shooting still photos and video. Spears' vehicle, however, was observing traffic laws, the helicopter pilot reported.

At one point the Mercedes pulled into the Beverly Hills Hotel entrance. Beverly Hills police Sgt. Mark Miner said a "keep the peace" detail was sent to the hotel, a common practice when paparazzi are causing a nuisance.

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Welcome Home Roscoe Jenkins
Friday 4:25 7:30 9:50
Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:30 9:50
Sunday 1:25 4:25 7:30
Mon thru Thurs 4:25 7:30
Martin Lawrence, Louis C.K.
Comedy • Rated PG13 ●
Synopsis: Talk-show sensation RJ Stevens left behind his modest Southern upbringing and family name to transform into a self-help guru dispensing his "Team of Me" philosophy to millions of adoring fans. With a reality-TV-star fiancée and money to burn, there's no piece of the Hollywood dream RJ hasn't achieved. After his parents request that he come home for their 50th wedding anniversary, the TV host packs up his 10-year-old son and diva bride-to-be and heads back to Georgia.

Fool's Gold
Friday 4:10 7:15 9:30
Saturday 1:20 4:10 7:15 9:30
Sunday 1:20 4:10 7:15
Mon thru Thurs 4:10 7:15
Matthew McConaughey, Kate Hudson
Action, Adventure • Rated PG13 ■
Synopsis: Ben "Finn" Finnegan is a good-natured, surf bum-turned-treasure hunter who is obsessed with finding the legendary 18th century Queen"s Dowry--40 chests of exotic treasure that was lost at sea in 1715. In his quest, Finn has sunk everything he has, including his marriage to Tess Finnegan and his more-rusty-than-trusty salvage boat, "Booty Calls." Just as Tess has begun to rebuild her life, working aboard a mega-yacht owned by billionaire Nigel Honeycutt, Finn discovers a vital clue to the treasure"s whereabouts.

★ ★ ★

Sweeny Todd: Demon Barber
Friday 4:05 7:25 9:40
Saturday 1:05 4:05 7:25 9:40
Sunday 1:05 4:05 7:25
Mon thru Thurs 4:05 7:25
Johnny Depp, Helena Bonham Carter
Thriller, Musical • Rated R
Synopsis: Benjamin Barker, a man unjustly sent to prison by a lecherous judge, vows revenge, not only for that cruel punishment, but for the devastating consequences of what happened to his wife and daughter. When he returns to reopen his barber shop, Sweeney Todd becomes the Demon Barber of Fleet Street who "shaved the heads of gentlemen who never thereafter were heard from again."

Meet the Spartans
Friday 4:20 7:10 9:35
Saturday 1:15 4:20 7:10 9:35
Sunday 1:15 4:20 7:10
Mon thru Thurs 4:20 7:10
Diedrich Bader, Kevin Sorbo
Comedy • Rated PG13 ■

Sakal, Sakali, Saklolo
Friday 4:30 7:05 9:55
Saturday 1:30 4:30 7:05 9:55
Sunday 1:30 4:30 7:05
Mon thru Thurs 4:30 7:05
Judy Ann Santos, Ryan Agoncillo
Comedy, Romance • Rated NR ■

Cloverfield
Friday 4:00 7:00 9:45
Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:45
Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00
Mon thru Thurs 4:00 7:00
Michael Stahl David, Mike Vogel
Comedy, Drama • Rated PG13 ■

27 Dresses
Friday 4:15 7:20 10:00
Saturday 1:10 4:15 7:20 10:00
Sunday 1:10 4:15 7:20
Mon thru Thurs 4:15 7:20
Katherine Heigl, James Marsden
Romantic Comedy • Rated PG13 ■

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Paris Hilton goes to Harvard

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP)—Paris Hilton found herself somewhere she never thought she'd be: Harvard.

"Harvard is hot!" the 26-year-old celebrity heiress said Wednesday as she picked up the Harvard Lampoon humor magazine's "Woman of the Year" award in front of the Lampoon castle.

"Never in my wildest dreams did I imagine standing here, standing on the steps of the Harvard Lampoon. It's really exciting and I've had such a great time," said Hilton, who stars as an attractive best friend to an ugly duckling in the film "The Hottie & the Nottie," which opens Friday.

Hilton, who arrived an hour late for the festivities, told the crowd of about 100 people who greeted her that her "Simple Life" co-star Nicole Ritchie was with her, then added: "Just kidding."

The Lampoon award is a spoof of the annual honors given by Harvard's Hasty Pudding Theatricals. The nation's oldest undergraduate drama troupe planned to present its "Woman of the Year" award to Charlize Theron on Thursday. "Man of the Year" Christopher Walken will be honored Feb. 15.

Hotel heiress Paris Hilton waves to the crowd as she receives the Harvard Lampoon Woman of the Year Award at Harvard University, in Cambridge, Mass., Wednesday, Feb. 6, 2008. AP

Draft of proposed deal expected soon

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The striking Writers Guild of America is anticipating that lawyers could complete a draft copy of a proposed deal with Hollywood studios by Friday.

The bargaining committee and boards of the East and West Coast guild chapters plan to review the proposal before sharing details Saturday at membership meetings in New York and Los Angeles, said a person close to the situation who was not authorized to comment publicly and requested anonymity.

In an e-mail sent earlier this week to guild members, negotiations committee chief John Bowman said the guild wouldn't make a formal decision on the proposed deal until after the informational membership meetings.

If writers like what they hear Saturday, the closed-door meetings could be a major step toward a resolution of the 3-month-old strike.

The walkout, which began Nov. 5, centers on the issue of compensation for content offered over the Internet.

The outcome of the membership meetings could determine if TV networks will be able to salvage the remainder of the 2007-08 season and if the Feb. 24 Academy Awards ceremony can proceed without pickets.

JLo expecting twins, dad says

NEW YORK (AP)—Jennifer Lopez is expecting twins, her father says. "They are twins, yes," David Lopez said on Telefutura's "Escandalo TV" program. He said his sister had twins.

"To be a mother is something Jennifer has wanted for many years," Lopez said. "I feel superproud."

The 39-year-old singer, who is married to Marc Anthony, confirmed her pregnancy during a concert in November. "Marc and I are expecting," she told the crowd in Miami.

Lopez and Anthony, 38, were married in 2004.

Kate Moss portrait sells for $191,000

LONDON (AP)—English graffiti artist Banksy's screen print of supermodel Kate Moss sold for $191,000 at a street art auction in London.

The work, inspired by Andy Warhol's iconic portrait of Marilyn Monroe, was one of 75 pieces of "urban art" on sale, Bonhams auction house said.

Many of the works were created with spray-paint and stencils and began life as street graffiti before being transferred to canvas.

"By definition (urban art) is an ephemeral art form, often disappearing as fast as it appears," Gareth Williams, senior picture specialist at Bonhams, said Tuesday. "By transposing their images from street wall to canvas, urban artists are now creating a permanent legacy."

Banksy refuses to give his real name, which has been variously reported as Robert Banks or Robin Banks. The artist, who does much of his work on exterior walls, rarely offers originals for sale.

Urban art specialist Gareth Williams carries Banksy's 'Kate Moss' at Bonhams auction house, London, in this Jan. 22, 2008 file photo. AP

Lohan: 'It's like, what was I thinking?'

AP

Lindsay Lohan poses as she arrives at the premiere of "Cloverfield," in this Jan. 16, 2008, file photo in Los Angeles.

NEW YORK (AP)—Hindsight is 20-20 for Lindsay Lohan. "When I look back on this last year, it's like, what was I thinking?" the 21-year-old actress says in the March issue of Harper's Bazaar magazine, on newsstands Feb. 19.

Lohan was arrested twice last year on DUI charges and pleaded guilty in August to misdemeanor drunken driving and cocaine charges. She served 84 minutes in jail as part of a plea deal, and checked into a rehab center in Utah.

"I've learned so much, though, like learning to live my life a different way ... and I wasn't taking the time to feel my feelings," she says. "Being away and going to a place where I could learn about that and take the time with a clear mind to get back on the right track was nice."

The "Mean Girls" star—who was shown on a video taking a swig from a champagne bottle while ringing in the New Year in Capri, Italy—says it's hard to resist the urge to party.

"I have it in me to go, go, go," Lohan says. "I'm still young. I love life. I love music and being around that. I love people, and I'm a very social person. But I also love being home, quiet and normal."

Amy Winehouse quizzed over 'drug' video

LONDON (AP)—British singer Amy Winehouse has been questioned about a video that allegedly showed her smoking crack cocaine, police said Wednesday.

No charges were filed and an investigation is continuing, police said.

Last month, The Sun tabloid ran still images from a video that showed the jazz-pop diva inhaling fumes from a small pipe. The images were said to have been filmed during a party at Winehouse's London home.

Winehouse—who shot to fame with the autobiographical single "Rehab"—has since been admitted to a London rehabilitation center.

On Wednesday, London's Metropolitan Police said detectives interview a 24-year-old woman the previous day over allegations of drug possession. It is policy not to name suspects who have not been charged but an officer read out the statement in response to a request for information about Winehouse.

The singer and her acclaimed "Back to Black" album are nominated in six categories for Sunday's Grammy Awards, but her spokesman said no decision had been made about whether she would attend the ceremony in Los Angeles.

Ferguson booked for White House dinner

NEW YORK (AP)—Less than a week after being sworn in as a U.S. citizen, Craig Ferguson learned he'll be telling jokes to President Bush.

The CBS "Late Late Show" host revealed Tuesday that he's been booked as the entertainer at the annual White House correspondents' dinner in Washington, scheduled April 26.

Ferguson, a Scotsman, recently passed an American citizenship test and was formally sworn in Friday. For his late-night viewers, he described the correspondents' dinner as "like the Oscars for politicians."

It's also potential trouble for comics: Don Imus and Stephen Colbert both provoked some criticism for their pointed political jokes.

"There are 2,800 journalists in attendance, there (are) congressman, senators there, military brass, the Cabinet and I sit at the top table with the president and the first lady," Ferguson said. "And I am thinking, `Does he know I can't be kicked out now?'"

"I thought it would be the big thing, have the dinner and `as my last act as president, you go home, Ferguson,'" the 45-year-old talk-show host said. "And I'll say, `I am home!'"

Man's marriage proposal may become family affair

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I have waited 36 years to marry. Most would say I was the quintessential bachelor. When I was younger, I never thought I'd date anyone with a child. I didn't want to deal with the "baggage" I thought came with dating a single mother.

Needless to say, I have been dating a delightful woman who has a 4-year-old son with whom I get along great. We've dated for a year and a half, I love her, and it's time I propose.

The three of us are a little team, and I'm wondering, when I ask her to marry me, should I involve her son and buy something for him—and if so, what? I was thinking of a custom-made charm for a chain (remember, he's only 4). I would like it to be something he can keep with him the rest of his life. Your advice would be greatly appreciated.

—BACHELOR IN DOVER, N.H.

DEAR BACHELOR: Your sentiments are endearing. Because you are a "team," it would be wonderful to involve the child in the proposal. You might include him in the "surprise" for his mother, or even propose becoming a family to both of them.

However, at 4, the boy is too young to entrust with a piece of expensive jewelry—and by the time he would be old enough to wear and appreciate it, a charm might not be in fashion, so I don't recommend it. The promise of your love and support is gift enough.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My wife, "Yvonne," has been struggling with a painful issue most of her adult life. Her parents show no interest in her. This has been the case since she was young. Yvonne has continually reached out to them without success. Her mother calls maybe once a year and never sends anything for her birthday or Christmas. Her father is pretty much nonexistent.

This has been affecting my wife more and more as she gets older. She's 29 and a wonderful mother and wife, but every time she sees a mother and daughter spending time together on TV or in public, it makes her very sad. She always comments that she wishes she was like that with her mother. I have tried to console her the best I can, but it doesn't help much. What can I do to help her overcome this?

—HURTS FOR MY WIFE IN WARREN, MICH.

DEAR HURTS FOR MY WIFE: It appears you're doing all you can, but filling this hole in your wife's heart is more than a "civilian" can accomplish. She may need the help of a psychologist in order to repair the damage caused by her parents' neglect. Please suggest it to her because your wife may be more resilient than she thinks. I say this because she has been able to be an effective mother even though she had a poor role model to follow.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I just found out that my mother has become engaged. I don't have a problem with it except for the fact that her fiance, "Harry," is younger than my brothers and me.

My father has passed away, and I do not intend to call Harry anything other than his first name. When I refer to him in conversation, should I call him my stepfather or my mother's husband?

—"STEPCHILD" IN VIRGINIA

DEAR "STEPCHILD": You are all adults. Therefore I see nothing disrespectful in referring to Harry as your mother's husband. That's what he will be.

■ ■ ■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■ ■ ■

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $12 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

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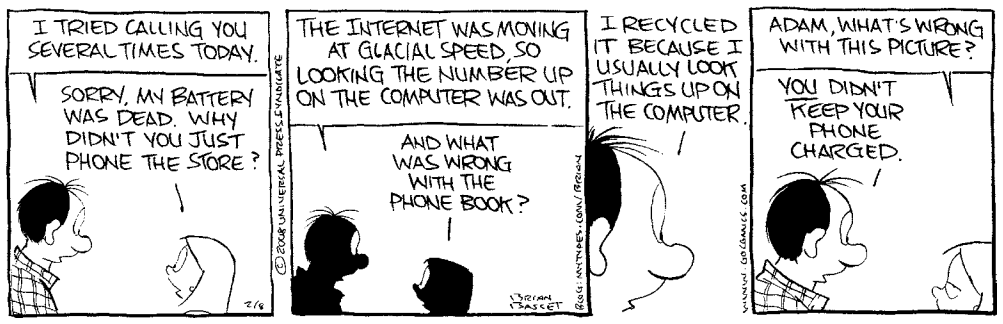
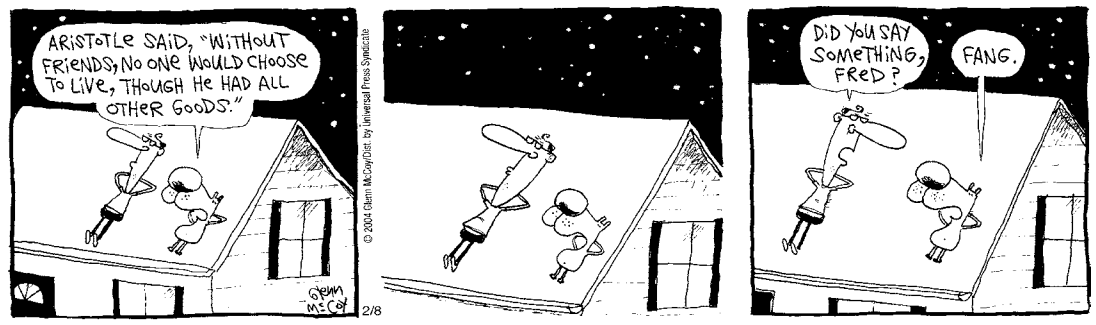
By Bryan Basset


I TRIED CALLING YOU SEVERAL TIMES TODAY.
SORRY, MY BATTERY WAS DEAD. WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST PHONE THE STORE?
THE INTERNET WAS MOVING AT GLACIAL SPEED, SO LOOKING THE NUMBER UP ON THE COMPUTER WAS OUT.
AND WHAT WAS WRONG WITH THE PHONE BOOK?
I RECYCLED IT BECAUSE I USUALLY LOOK THINGS UP ON THE COMPUTER.
ADAM, WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE?
YOU DIDN'T KEEP YOUR PHONE CHARGED.
2/6

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


ARISTOTLE SAID, "WITHOUT FRIENDS, NO ONE WOULD CHOOSE TO LIVE, THOUGH HE HAD ALL OTHER GOODS."
DID YOU SAY SOMETHING, FRED?
FANG.
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2/8

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

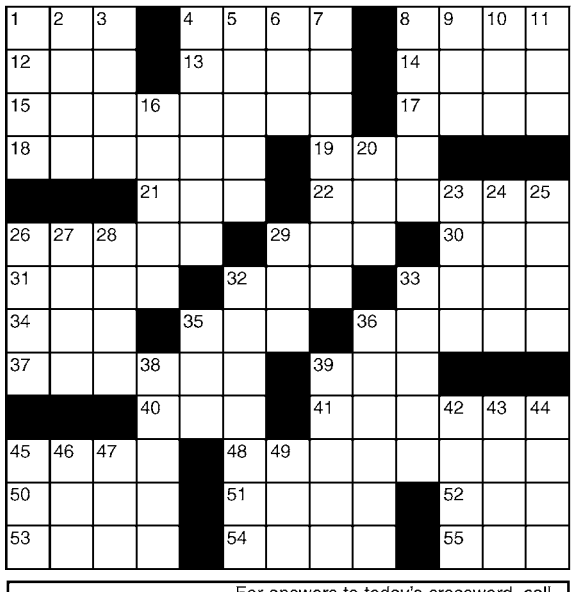
ACROSS
1 Director Howard
4 Tries the tea
8 Urban pall
12 Beerlike beverage
13 Get ready
14 "G.W.T.W." acreage
15 Mien
17 Crafts' mates
18 Influence
19 Postal Creed word
21 Witness
22 Keel
26 February figure
29 Yon maiden
30 Sinbad's flier
31 Shakespeare's river
32 Lady's man?
33 Lofty
34 Feline sign
35 Choose
36 Impudent
37 Mooring site
39 Massachusetts cape
40 Jewel
41 10 to the 100th power
45 Sweater material
48 What banns announce
50 Vagrant
51 Olympic sword
52 Sprite
53 Part of B.&O.
54 "Monopoly" card
55 Allow

DOWN
1 "The Amazing —"
2 Any of five kings of Norway
3 Soft ball?
4 Seasoned
5 Really mad
6 Cribbage scorer
7 Princess Diana's family name
8 Lennon cohort
9 Scratch
10 Tidbit
11 Petrol
16 Lacquer component
20 Rowboat need
23 Rainbow
24 Yuletime quaffs
25 Needing liniment
26 At peace
27 Eye layer
28 Indigent
29 Smack
32 Sent unwanted e-mail
33 Vietnamese city
35 Indivisible
36 Slept soundly?
38 Northern hemisphere?
39 Match
42 Author Greene
43 Amorous look
44 Took off
45 Personal question?
46 La-la lead-in
47 Sapporo sash
49 Mimic

Solution time: 25 mins.

A	R	M	S	■	A	P	S	E	■	A	L	A
F	O	O	T	■	N	A	I	R	■	P	U	G
A	P	P	E	T	I	Z	E	R	■	P	R	E
R	E	E	V	E	S	■	■	O	I	L	E	D
■	■	■	E	X	■	M	A	R	D	I	■	■
J	U	A	N	■	S	O	U	■	A	Q	U	A
A	M	P	■	■	O	U	R	■	■	U	S	N
M	A	P	S	■	I	S	A	■	W	E	E	D
■	■	■	E	A	G	L	E	■	W	E	■	■
M	A	N	O	R	■	■	B	O	I	L	E	D
O	L	D	■	A	P	P	L	E	G	A	T	E
P	S	I	■	S	U	R	E	■	H	O	N	E
S	O	X	■	S	N	O	W	■	T	S	A	R

Yesterday's answer 2-8



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CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: David "Phoenix" Farrel, 31; Seth Green, 34; Robert Klein, 66; Nick Nolte, 67

Happy Birthday: There are situations that must be taken care of this year. If you can manage to tackle some of the problems of the past, you will rid yourself of all that is likely to slow you down in the future. This year, it's better to go it alone. Wisdom will come through the experience you have and, with this knowledge, you can move closer to your life goals. Your numbers are 15, 19, 25, 32, 37, 48

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Help others and take on a little extra responsibility. You may not please everyone but you will learn from your experience and feel good about who you are and what you can do. Do not sit idle or waste time arguing. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Think about your successes and your failures and you can improve your future and reach your goals. It is important to feel confident and to know that it's OK to fail because out of failure comes success. You can teach those around you. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't confuse people because you can't make up your mind. Don't share what you are about to do until you are positive what that might be. Strive for stability, security and precision. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): It's OK to be kind and generous but don't be gullible or leave yourself in a vulnerable position. Do things because you want to, not because you feel guilty. Pick and choose what's best for you. ✪✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Don't let the changes going on around you cause upset. If you can show you are adaptable under whatever conditions you are given, you will pass the test and move on to better things. Learn from how others respond. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Make a residential move, change partners or do something nice for your family. You can add to the comfort of your surroundings or have a party for the people you love the most. Positive thought will bring positive actions. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Have a little fun: a pleasure trip with friends or taking the day to pamper yourself. A chance to network with people who may be interested in your ideas, creative endeavors or any of your Libra skills will lead to an interesting turn of events. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Don't leave anything to chance. You will make an impression that should lead to advancement or progress if you are assertive and demanding in your efforts to get ahead. Include the one you love. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You'll be in a firecracker mood, ready to take on the world. You will be able to persuade others to join your crusade and to move ahead with your plans. Travel may be necessary. ✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Work may be where your heart is today but it's important to put time aside to relax and enjoy family and friends. Whatever you are working on will proceed with or without you, so kick back, have fun and enjoy life. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Take action and form alliances. You can make a difference if you refuse to back down or give in. It will be your strength that can make others realize the possibilities. Explain your strategy and start the process. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Someone may try to pull a fast one on you. If you become angry, you will play into his or her hands. Stay calm—once everything is out in the open, you can make your move with confidence. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, inventive and imaginative. You love passionately and trust unequivocally. You are effective and efficient and fight for what's right.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	8	2	6		7	4	9	
		6				1		
2			8		3			7
			5		4			
3			7		1			9
		1				3		
	7	4	1		2	5	6	

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 2/08

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	1	5	4	8	6	9	7	3
4	9	6	2	3	7	5	1	8
7	8	3	5	1	9	2	4	6
1	3	9	6	7	8	4	5	2
5	4	7	3	9	2	8	6	1
6	2	8	1	4	5	3	9	7
8	5	4	7	6	3	1	2	9
3	7	2	9	5	1	6	8	4
9	6	1	8	2	4	7	3	5

Difficulty Level ★★★ 2/07

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

CHRISTMAS MEMORIES **Solution: 8 letters**

R	M	D	K	Y	Y	H	Ⓡ	S	N	O	W	M	A	N
C	E	L	E	B	R	Ⓐ	T	I	O	N	U	S	L	R
H	O	K	A	C	Ⓣ	I	N	N	S	H	L	E	D	A
F	P	B	C	Ⓢ	K	L	O	G	A	L	E	N	E	E
R	E	M	M	A	N	U	E	L	E	T	A	U	S	Y
O	A	E	U	V	R	B	L	B	S	L	R	T	U	W
S	C	R	E	I	R	C	L	T	R	P	S	E	S	E
T	E	R	W	O	R	I	T	E	M	A	I	D	E	N
Y	S	I	C	R	C	T	D	U	S	T	T	R	J	S
E	S	L	H	H	H	N	M	E	N	S	O	N	I	I
H	A	Y	U	Y	O	H	E	A	V	E	N	W	A	T
K	M	R	M	W	L	R	F	Y	R	O	L	G	N	S
E	C	N	T	D	Y	N	U	A	L	Y	R	I	C	S
H	S	I	C	H	I	M	E	S	I	L	V	E	R	I
E	S	G	N	I	K	H	O	L	I	D	A	Y	S	K

© 2008 Universal Press Syndicate www.wonderword.com 2/8

Baby, Bells, Bless, Celebration, Chimes, Chorus, Church, Deck, Earth, Emmanuel, Folk, Frosty, Glory, Hail, Hall, Hear, Heaven, Holidays, Holy, Hymns, Infant, Israel, Jesus, Kings, Kiss, Lyrics, Maiden, Mary, Merrily, New Year, Nick, Noel, Nutcracker, Peace, Poem, Rhyme, Ride, Santa, Savior, Season, Silver, Sing, Snowman, Spirit, Star, Town, Trees, Triumph, Tunes, Verse, Wish, Wonderland

Yesterday's Answer: Resolve

SALE: The topics of "Wonderword for Kids" appeal to younger fans but the puzzle-difficulty matches what you've come to expect from Wonderword. For a limited time, the book is on sale for just $4 each (U.S. funds only), payable to Universal Press Syndicate. Include $3 postage for the first book order, $1 p&h for each additional book. Send to Wonderword, 4520 Main St., Kansas City, Mo. 64111 or call toll-free, 1-800-255-5734, ext. 6688. **Sorry,** no online orders for this special offer.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR RENT RESIDENTIAL

Apartment For Rent (in Beach Road, Garapan) One (1) Bedroom fully furnished with back-up generator and 24 hour water, washer & dryer facilities in the building. For inquiries, pls. call 322-6183

Apartment Room for Rent
2 bed room $230.00, Koblerville.
Contact: 288-0728.

Apartment room for rent: Fully furnished 1 brm, T/B, 24-hr water $210/month, near Conwood | Tel. 287-1372, 235-6748

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER
(F 13282)
Salary:$750.00/monthly. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical & workmen's compensation provided by employers. Contact: Bridge Capital, LLC. @322-2222.

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2 HEAVY EQUIPMENT MECHANIC (F 13283)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical insurance & workers compensation included. Contact: Cornelo D Alomia dba Triple R Pacific Motor Shop @234-3387.

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1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER
(F 13284)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Employee provided housing; employee provided food; workmen's compensation & medical provided. Contact: ISA Enterprises Inc. @285-0628.

1 COMMERCIAL CLAENER
(F 13285)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Employee provided housing; employee provided food; workmen's compensation & medical provided. Contact: ISA Enterprises Inc. @285-0628.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

1 HOUSEWORKER (F 13286)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: $100.00/charge deduct monthly housing; $100.00/deduct food monthly; workers compensation & medical. Contact: Mr. & Mrs. Edel G. Cudia @235-0358.

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1 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
(F 13287)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self provide food; medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: Unicorn Corporation @322-3364.

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1 HOUSEWORKER (F 13288)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Housing provided (Live-in); food provided; workers compensation & medical. Contact: Ulpiano C. and Estrella Baysa @235-0948.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
Medical Profession Licensing Board

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to P. L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Board of Professional Licensing (BPL) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, February 12, 2008, at 10:00 a.m. on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the HCPLB office conference room located in Bldg #1336 Ascension Drive, Capitol Hill. Agenda for the meeting is as follows:

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Determination of Quorum
3. Review and Adoption of Agenda
4. Review and Adoption of Minutes (12/11/07)
5. Communications from Governor's Office & Legislature
   A. Governor's Office
   B. Legislature
6. Chairman's Report
7. Executive Director's Report
8. Investigator's Report
9. Old Business
   A. H.B. 15-282
   B. Outstanding Annual Membership Dues
10. New Business
A. To Schedule Hearing Date for Denied Applications (Korean Engineers)
12. Miscellaneous Business
13. Executive Session - The Board may vote to meet in Executive Session.
14. Adjournment of Meeting

WANTED TO BUY A BOAT
Serious buyer looking for 30+ ft. powered boat, ready to use, no repairs needed.
CALL 256-7000.
Leave message.

FOR SALE
19 FT. BOAT YAMA W/ENGINE
1 PICK-UP TOYOTA TACOMA
CALL 878-2665, 322-2118

SMALL ENGINE REPAIR
LAUNDRY REPAIR
- Lawn Mower
- Generator Repair
- Boat Engine
- Bush Cutter Repair
- Motor Bike
- Rewinding

233-5641
Open 7 Day a Week 9:00 AM-9:00 PM

Commercial Space & Room for Rent
- 4000 sq.ft. commercial space, good for warehouse (previously rented to Mingli Wholesale), auto-shop, day-care, office, etc. Located in Chalan Laulau between Middle Rd. & Beach Rd. Back of Triple J Auto.
- Room from $80-$140/mo. behind Triple J Auto on Beach Rd. near to XO Market & H-Mart.

Call Ivan @ 235-0479, 285-9966, 9:00am - 6:00pm

MOVING OUT SALE
WED-FRI 8AM-5PM
FEB. 6-8, 2008
Atdao St., Dandan
across Javilli Store
483-0951

HAIRSTYLIST/BEAUTICIAN
WANTED
Call 235-1425 RAY/NANCY

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB No.: ITB08-OHS-041

SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 15, 2008 **TIME: 10:00 A.M.**

"JANITORIAL SERVICES FOR THE OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY BUILDING NUMBER 1326 & 1358"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A MANDATORY SITE VISIT WILL BE CONDUCTED ON FEBRUARY 11, 2008 AT 9:30 A.M.

LOCAL BUSINESS PREFERENCE FOR US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS PURSUANT TO PL 15-95 AND AS AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 **DOES NOT APPLY** TO THIS ITB.

/s/PATRICK J. TENORIO
SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR HOMELAND SECURITY

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

NOTICE

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF THE PROGRAM AND HOUSING DIVISION
(January 18, 2008)

TO: SECTION 8 LANDLORDS AND TENANTS

This is to inform you that the Program and Housing Division (PHD) will be closed on the Week of **February 18 to February 22, 2008** due to Monday; February 18, 2008 being a legal CNMI holiday (President's Day) followed by off-island training scheduled for the entire PHD staff that will occur during the remainder of the week.

Your usual cooperation and understanding is greatly appreciated.

Customers First
TRIPLE J

TRIPLE J ENTERPRISES, INC. is looking to hire a person to fill the position of:

Director of Human Resources

The candidate must be a college graduate in Human Resources or in a related field with a minimum of 5 yrs. experience. PHR or SPHR Certified is preferred. This person must be able to develop policies, direct & coordinate human resources activities, such as employment, compensation, labor relations, benefits, training & employee services. The ideal person must have knowledge of the U.S. Federal, Guam, CNMI, Palau, Marshall Islands, Japan & China Labor & Immigration Laws. Some travel required. Successful applicant must be willing to reside either on Saipan or Guam.

The following are duties & responsibilities:

- Analyzes wage & salary reports & data to determine competitive compensation plan.
- Prepares personnel forecast to project employment needs.
- Writes directives advising department managers of company policy regarding equal employment opportunities, compensation, & employee benefits.
- Consults legal counsel to ensure that policies comply with federal & local laws.
- Develops & maintains a human resources system that meets top management information needs.
- Oversees the analysis, maintenance, & communication of records required by law or local governing bodies, or other departments in the organization.
- Represents & or assists management in negotiating agreements.
- Writes & delivers presentations to corporate officers or government officials regarding human resources policies & practices.
- Coordinates & process H & L Visas.
- Oversees & directs Triple J subsidiaries & affiliates in Guam, Palau, CNMI, Marshall Islands, Japan & China.

Pls. send resume by facsimile at **(670) 234-7347**
or email to:
hrdirector@triplejsaipan.com

Competitive compensation including salary, 401K, vacation, medical & dental plan.
Pre-employment drug test & police clearance required upon selection.

Triple J is an equal opportunity employer.

WHATZIT Solution:
Friends in high places

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

MATTERHORN
POPOCATEPETL

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Find today's solution in this section

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$25
• 5-Liner	$35
• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

As added service to our valued customers, you may now submit all your JVA placements for announcement/publication in *Saipan Tribune's* print and online edition and KZMI/KCNM at the same time. No more worries of having to go to two different locations every time you need to place job vacancy announcements. Special rates are available for JVA customers under this arrangement.

Print*	
• 1st position	$10
• 2nd position	$3
• Succeeding positions	$1

Combo (Print and Online)*	
• 1st position	$13
• 2nd position	$4
• Succeeding positions	$2

Radio (KCNM/KZMI)	
• Up to 6 positions	$5
• More than 6 positions	$10

LOWER RATES! Effective Feb. 3, 2007

*These rates apply to all vacancy announcements that include corresponding benefits and which announcements are all under the same company name.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Job Vacancy Announcements

Monday Through Friday Issues: All ads placed before 12 noon will come out the next publication date.

Saturday And Sunday Issues:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.
- KCNM/KZMI: All ads placed on Friday (9am to 5pm) will be for Monday's radio announcement.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

Job Vacancy Announcements

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

1 SUPERVISOR OF COMMUNICATIONS (F 13289)
Salary:$3.55-$7.00/hour. Benefits: Housing not provided; food not provided; medical & workman's compensation. Contact: Nick S. Ramon dba Western Pacific Telecommunication Service Company @234-6030.

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1 COMPTROLLER (F 13290)
Salary:$12.00/hour. Benefits: Medical insurance & workers compensation. Contact: Auntie Mag's Food & Catering dba Auntie Mag's Catering @288-4799.

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1 OFFICE CLERK (F 13291)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food; medical & workers compensation. Contact: Javili General Partnership @235-4928.

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1 BLDG. MAINTENANCE REPAIRER (F 13292)
Salary:$3.55-$3.75/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical expenses & workmen's compensation provided. Contact: AA Enterprises, Inc. @322-4447.

1 CASHIER (F 13293)
Salary:$3.55-$3.75/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical expenses & workmen's compensation provided. Contact: AA Enterprises, Inc. @322-4447.

1 H.E. OPERATOR (F 13294)
Salary:$3.55-$3.75/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical expenses & workmen's compensation provided. Contact: AA Enterprises, Inc. @322-4447.

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1 WAITRESS/WAITER (F 13295)
Salary:$3.55-$3.70/hour. Benefits: Workers compensation & medical expenses company provided. Contact: Nippon General Trading Corp. @233-8223.

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1 ACCOUNTANT (F 13296)
Salary:$3.55-$6.70/hour. Benefits: $150.00/housing allowance; workmen's compensation & medical insurance. Contact: Anthony R. Stearns, MD dba Marianas Medical Center @2341-3926.

1 X-RAY/ULTRASOUND TECH (F 13297)
Salary:$3.55-$7.00/hour. Benefits: $150.00/housing allowance; workmen's compensation & medical insurance. Contact: Anthony R. Stearns, MD dba Marianas Medical Center @2341-3926.

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1 GROUNDSKEEPER (F 13298)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food & medical provided. Contact: Rosa C. Sorensen @286-5242

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1 WAREHOUSE WORKER (F 13299)
Salary:$3.55-$4.00/hour. Benefits: Medical insurance & workers compensation. Contact: Luen Fung Ent., (Saipan), Inc. @234-7243.

1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER (F 13300)
Salary:$3.55-$4.00/hour. Benefits: Medical insurance & workers compensation. Contact: Luen Fung Ent., (Saipan), Inc. @234-7243.

1 ELECTRICIAN (F 13301)
Salary:$3.55-$4.00/hour. Benefits: Medical insurance & workers compensation. Contact: Luen Fung Ent., (Saipan), Inc. @234-7243.

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1 LOGISTICS MANAGER (F 13302)
Salary:$1,500.00-$1,700.00/monthly. Benefits: Work compensation & medical insurance. Cargo Express (Saipan), Inc. @234-6616/7/8.

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1 (GENERAL) MAINTENANCE WORKER MUNICIPAL (F 13303)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workman's compensation provided. Contact: Law Offices of Ramon K. Quichocho LLC. @234-8946.

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1 CUTTER (F 13304)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workman compensation provided. Contact: Uno Moda Corp. @234-1861/2.

7 GARMENT INSPECTOR (F 13305)
Salary:$3.55-$4.05/hour. Benefits: Medical & workman compensation provided. Contact: Uno Moda Corp. @234-1861/2.

2 PRESSER (F 13306)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workman compensation provided. Contact: Uno Moda Corp. @234-1861/2.

1 ACCOUNTANT MANAGER (F 13307)
Salary:$10.48/hour. Benefits: Medical & workman compensation provided. Contact: Uno Moda Corp. @234-1861/2.

35 SEWING MACHINE OPERATOR (F 13308)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workman compensation provided. Contact: Uno Moda Corp. @234-1861/2.

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1 WELL DRILLER (F 13309)
Salary:$4.25/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food; workmen's compensation & medical. Contact: Alexander Incorporated dba Alexander Drilling @234-5117.

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1 DRESSMAKER (F 13310)
Salary:$3.55-$4.25/hour. Benefits: Medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: YCO Corp. dba YCO TrueValue Hardware/Do It Best Hardware/Liberty Dept. Store/YCO Construction/Appliance Outlets/ Liberty Dept. Store/Naked Fish Bar & Grill/Servistar Motorsports @ 233-3112/3.

1 MAINTENANCE, MECHANIC (F 13311)
Salary:$3.55-$4.25/hour. Benefits: Medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: YCO Corp. dba YCO TrueValue Hardware/Do It Best Hardware/Liberty Dept. Store/YCO Construction/Appliance Outlets/ Liberty Dept. Store/Naked Fish Bar & Grill/Servistar Motorsports @ 233-3112/3.

1 COMPUTER PROGRAMMER (F 13312)
Salary:$3.55-$4.25/hour. Benefits: Medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: YCO Corp. dba YCO TrueValue Hardware/Do It Best Hardware/Liberty Dept. Store/YCO Construction/Appliance Outlets/ Liberty Dept. Store/Naked Fish Bar & Grill/Servistar Motorsports @ 233-3112/3.

1 PAINT MIXER (F 13313)
Salary:$3.55-$4.25/hour. Benefits: Medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: YCO Corp. dba YCO TrueValue Hardware/Do It Best Hardware/Liberty Dept. Store/YCO Construction/Appliance Outlets/ Liberty Dept. Store/Naked Fish Bar & Grill/Servistar Motorsports @ 233-3112/3.

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1 WAITER/WAITRESS (F 13314)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; free food while on duty; employer to provide medical insurance & workmans compensation. Contact: Kingfisher Corporation dba Kingfisher Golflinks @322-1100.

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1 ESTIMATOR, JEWELRY (F 13315)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food; workmen's compensation & medical. Contact: Alexander Incorporated dba Fashcash Pawnshop @234-5117.

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1 KITCHEN HELPER (F 13316)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Workman compensation & medical insurance. Contact: Auntie Mag's Food & Catering dba Auntie Mag's Food & Catering @288-4799.

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12 COMMERCIAL (SERVICES) CLEANERS (F 13317)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Workmen compensation & medical provided. Contact: Sablan Topline Company, LLC. @235-5206.

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1 HOUSEWORKER (F 13318)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: $100.00/deduct housing; $100.00/ deduct food & medical. Contact: John S. Blanco @234-6138.

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1 GENERAL MANAGER (13319)
Salary:$650.00-$2,000.00/monthly. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation provided. Contact: Mega Power Corporation dba Atoll Divers & Tours Services. @483-6284.

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1 AUTO BODY REPAIRER (F 13320)
Salary:$4.50/hour. Benefits: Workers compensation insurance & medical. Contact: Motion Automotive Repair CTR. @235-3481.

1 BUILDING MAINTENANCE REPAIRER (F 13321)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation insurance. Contact: Motion Automotive Repair CTR. @235-3481.

1 AUTO ELECTRICIAN (F 13322)
Salary:$3.55-$4.50/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation insurance. Contact: Motion Automotive Repair CTR. @235-3481.

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1 TOUR COORDINATOR (F 13323)
Salary:$3.55-$4.05/hour. Benefits: $50.00-$350.00/housing allowance monthly; workers compensation & medical expenses company provided. Contact: HIS Saipan Inc. @234-7053.

1 CONTROLLER (F 13324)
Salary:$700.00-$1,982.00/monthly. Benefits: $10.00-$50.00/gas allowance monthly; $50.00-$350.00/ housing allowance monthly; workers compensation & medical expenses company provided. Contact: HIS Saipan Inc. @234-7053.

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1 STEWARD (F 13325)
Salary:$3.55-$4.00/hour. Benefits: $30.00/housing monthly; free food; workers compensation & medical coverage. Contact: World Corporation dba Saipan World Resort @234-5900.

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1 CARGO HANDLER (F 13326)
Salary:$3.55-$4.10/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; workmen's compensation provided & medical. Contact: Pacific Oriental Inc. @288-0360 to 0362.

1 MAINT. MECH. (F 13327)
Salary:$3.55-$4.95/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; workmen's compensation provided & medical. Contact: Pacific Oriental Inc. @288-0360 to 0362.

1 MANAGER, PASSENGER SERVICE (F 13328)
Salary:$1,972.00-$2,200.00/ monthly. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; workmen's compensation provided & medical. Contact: Pacific Oriental Inc. @288-0360 to 0362.

1 ACCOUNTANT (MANAGER) (F 13329)
Salary:$1,972.00-$2,169.20/ monthly. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; workmen's compensation provided & medical. Contact: Pacific Oriental Inc. @288-0360 to 0362.

CNMI State Rehabilitation Council
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
P.O. Box 501521 SAIPAN, MP 96950,
TEL:(670)322-6538 FAX: (670)322-6536
TTY (670) 322-6449 E -MAIL: voc. rehab@saipan. coin

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, hereby giving notice that the State Rehabilitation Council will hold Its FY 2008 2nd General membership meeting on February 20, 2008 at Giovanni's. Hyatt Regency Saipan from 9:30am- 1:30pm, Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

I. Preliminaries
II. Roll Call
III. Review & Adoption of Agenda
IV. Review & Adoption of Minutes of December 19, 2007
V. Reports
A. Chairperson
B. OVR Director
IV. New Business
A. OVR Policies
B. OVR Case Services Manual
C. National Coalition of State Rehabilitation Council Resolution
D. Amendments to SAC By-Laws
E. Appointments of Committee Chairs
VII. Consumer Forum
VIII. Announcements/Miscellaneous
XI. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Individuals who wish to attend this meeting but require accommodations such as large print or sign language Interpreters, are asked to call 322-6537/6538 (voice) or 322-6449 (TTY, Please contact Magin lginoef (Council Liaison) two days In advance for necessary arrangements.

/a/ **Gregorio Sablan**
SRC Chairperson

Publication of this notice was paid for with federal funds made possible by RSA of the United States Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS).

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT • P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (1-670) 664-3500/1 • Fax: (1-670) 234-5962 • E-mail Address: cpa.admin@saipan.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.com

SECOND AMENDED INVITATION TO BID
No. CPA-SA-2007-001
SALE OF CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL LUMBER:

	ITEMS	QUANTITY	MINIMUM BID
1.	4"x 6" x 18'	678 pieces	$30.00 each
2.	4"x 12" x 18'	302 pieces	$50.00 each

Interested individuals or firms may submit bids for the purchasing of the above listed lumber to the Acting Executive Director, Mr. Stanley C. Torres, at the CPA Administration Office, Second Floor of the Arrival Building at the Saipan International Airport, during regular working hours.

Bidders are able to inspect the items for bid, Mondays through Fridays from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., except legal holidays. For inspection arrangements, please contact Mr. Joe Santos at 664-3538.

Bids will be accepted on a "first come, first serve" basis and the listed prices are final. There will be no negotiations for price reductions. For more information, please call (670) 664-3500.

/s/ STANLEY C. TORRES
Acting Executive Director

Date: January 17, 2008

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

1 (CABIN SERVICE AGENT) CLEANER II (F 13330)
Salary:$3.55-$4.45/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; workmen's compensation provided & medical. Contact: Pacific Oriental Inc. @288-0360 to 0362.

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1 MANAGER, ACCOUNTING (F 13331)
Salary:$1,900.00-$2,337.50/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food & workmen's compensation provided. Contact: Century Insurance Co., Ltd. @234-0609.

1 ACCOUNTANT (F 13332)
Salary:$3.55-$6.35/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food & workmen's compensation provided. Contact: Century Insurance Co., Ltd. @234-0609.

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1 MANAGER, ACCOUNTING I (F 13333)
Salary:$1,200.00-$2,585.00/monthly. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided. Contact: Century Finance Co., Ltd. @236-2740/236-2741.

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1 ACCOUNTANT (F 13334)
Salary:$3.55-$8.00/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided. Contact: Consol. Trans. Serv. Inc. @322-1690 (L. Base)/234-2808 (Air).

1 CLERK, DOCUMENTATION BILL (F 13335)
Salary:$3.55-$4.40/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided. Contact: Consol. Trans. Serv. Inc. @322-1690 (L. Base)/234-2808 (Air).

1 MANAGER (F 13336)
Salary:$1,200.00-$2,310.00/monthly. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided. Contact: Consol. Trans. Serv. Inc. @322-1690 (L. Base)/234-2808 (Air).

1 MANAGER, GENERAL (F 13337)
Salary:$1,200.00-$3,080.00/monthly. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided. Contact: Consol. Trans. Serv. Inc. @322-1690 (L. Base)/234-2808 (Air).

1 ACCOUNTANT (F 13338)
Salary:$3.55-$5.85/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided. Contact: Consol. Trans. Serv. Inc. @322-1690 (L. Base)/234-2808 (Air).

1 SUPERVISOR, UNLOADING/LOADING (F 13339)
Salary:$3.55-$4.70/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided. Contact: Consol. Trans. Serv. Inc. @322-1690 (L. Base)/234-2808 (Air).

1 WAITRESS/WAITER (F 13340)
Salary:$3.05/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; food not provided; medical & workmen's compensation provided. Contact: Segundo G. Posadas dba Segundo's Delicious BBQ/Catering Services @233-1246.

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1 WAITRESS/WAITER (F 13341)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: $100.00/housing; 2duty meals; shared cost medical insurance; vacation leave & workers compensation. Contact: WDI Saipan, Inc. dba Tony Roma's/Capricciosa @322-7516.

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1 SUPERVISOR (PARTS) (F 13342)
Salary:$6.65-$6.90/hour. Benefits: Free housing if no A/C; medical insurance; vacation leave & workers compensation. Contact: Triple J Saipan, Inc. @234-1795.

1 COMPUTER SYSTEMS ANALYST (F 13343)
Salary:$461.54/bi-weekly. Benefits: Free housing if no A/C; medical insurance; vacation leave & workers compensation. Contact: Triple J Saipan, Inc. @234-1795.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Grid Supply Renewable Electricity Generation Projects for CNMI
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC - RFP -07-015
Addendum No. 2

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is hereby notifying all interested proposers / firms / agencies that the **correct** proposal submission is **March 31, 2008 no later than 3:00 p.m. (Saipan Time).** For proposers outside of CNMI, the proposals shall be postmarked on the same date as the closing day for submission of the proposals and received within seven (7) working days (April 9, 2008).

ANTHONY C. GUERRERO
Executive Director

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Grid Supply Renewable Electricity Generation Projects for CNMI
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC - RFP -07-015
Addendum No. 2

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is hereby notifying all interested proposers / firms / agencies of the following revisions:

1. **QUESTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS FROM POTENTIAL CONTRACTORS** - Time Extended to Wednesday, February 20, 2008 no later than 3:00 p.m. (Saipan Time)

2. **PREBID CONFERENCE –** To be held on Wednesday, February 27, 2008 @ 10: 00 a.m. (Saipan Time) at the CUC main office, 3rd Floor Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, for all prospective offerors who have submitted their "Expression of Interest".

3. **FINAL RESPONSE TO ALL QUESTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS BY CUC** - By Tuesday, March 11, 2008 @ 4:00 p.m. (Saipan Time)

4. **PROPOSAL SUBMISSION BY PROPOSERS –** One (1) original and seven (7) copies to be submitted by March 31, 2008 no later than 3:00 p.m. (Saipan Time) in a sealed envelope to Purchasing Manager, CUC Procurement Division, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, Tel: (670) 235-7025 thru 7032 and Fax (670) 235-5138. For proposers outside of CNMI, the proposals shall be postmarked on the same date as the closing day for submission of the proposals and received within seven (7) working days (April 9, 2008).

ANTHONY C. GUERRERO
Executive Director

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

Invitation For Bid
IFB 08-016

The CNMI Public School System and the CNMI State Board of Education are soliciting competitive sealed bids for the purchase, delivery, and installation of **Desktop Computers, Laptops, and Accessories for the following schools and program:**

1. **Head Start**
2. **Marianas High School**
3. **William S. Reyes Elementary School**

Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids shall be placed in a sealed envelope face marked "IFB 08-016" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and shall be submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than March 3, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. Responsibility determination documents shall be placed in separate envelope marked "IFB 08-016, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility determination" (1-original and 1-copy). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Carl de la Cruz, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, technical questions may be e-mailed to the following address: **delacruzc@pss.cnmi.mp.** Questions shall be submitted no later than ten (10) calendar days prior to the submission deadline.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all bids if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All bids shall become the property of the Public School System.

General inquiries to this announcement may be directed to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office at telephone numbers 237-3062 / 3035.

/S/ Dr. David M. Borja, D.B.A.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Carl F. de la Cruz, M.B.A.
Acting P & S Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

Invitation For Bid
IFB 08-022

The Public School System (PSS) and the CNMI State Board of Education are soliciting competitive sealed bids for the P**urchase and Delivery of One (1) Pick-Up Truck for Hopwood Junior High School.**

Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "IFB 08-022" containing (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than March 3, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "IFB 08-022, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (1-original and 1-copy). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions must be in writing and addressed to Mr. Carl de la Cruz, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, technical questions may be e-mailed to the following address: **delacruzc@pss.cnmi.mp**. Technical questions, in order to ensure consideration, should be submitted no later than ten (10) business days prior to the deadline for submission of bids.

General inquiries may be directed to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office at telephone numbers 237-3068 / 3035.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All bids shall become the property of the Public School System.

/S/ Dr. David M. Borja, D.B.A.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Carl F. de la Cruz, M.B.A.
Acting P & S Officer

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

1 MAINTENANCE (BUILDING) REPAIRER (F 13344)
Salary:$4.65-$4.90/hour. Benefits: Free housing if no A/C; medical insurance; vacation leave & workers compensation. Contact: Triple J Saipan, Inc. @234-1795.

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1 ELECTRICAL ENGR-DESIGN (F 13345)
Salary:$2,400.00/monthly. Benefits: $300.00/housing; $200.00/food; staywell insurance; medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: EMC2 Electrical, Inc. dba EMCE @233-3081.

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1 ELECTRONIC TECH. (F 13346)
Salary:$3.75/hour. Benefits: Medical & worksman compensation will be provided. Contact: Choice Radio Inc. dba I-Connect @235-0168.

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1 SALES MANAGER (F 13347)
Salary:$4.12/hour. Benefits: Medical & worksman compensation will be provided. Contact: Choice Radio Inc. dba I-Connect @235-0168.

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1 ELECTRONIC TECHNICIAN (MANAGER) (F 13348)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workers compensation provided by employer. Contact: Joseph J.A. Pablo dba 3 G's Service @235-7069.

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1 SALES REPRESENTATIVE (F 13349)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided by employer. Contact: Cheng Xiang Corporation @287-3067.

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1 MAINTENANCE BUILDING REPAIRER (F 13350)
Salary:$3.55-$5.00/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation. Contact: Pacific Entertainment Corp. dba Club Chicago @234-7900.

7 DANCER (F 13351)
Salary:$3.55-$3.75/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation. Contact: Pacific Entertainment Corp. dba Club Chicago @234-7900.

1 WAITRESS (F 13352)
Salary:$3.55-$3.75/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation. Contact: Pacific Entertainment Corp. dba Club Chicago @234-7900.

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1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER (F 13353)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food; workmens compensation insurance & medical provided. Contact: Samkor Inc. dba Samkor Congregate @322-0072.

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1 MANAGER (F 13354)
Salary:$650.00-$800.00/monthly. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation provided. Contact: Jee Hyun Corporation dba K2 Travel @483-6322.

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1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER (F 13355)
Salary:$3.05/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation provided. Contact: Ju Young Corporation dba O Sun Gift Shop II @483-3934.

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1 MANAGER (F 13356)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food; workers compensation & medical. Contact: Qizhao Zhen dba Kangda Market @288-0234.

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1 DRESSMAKER (F 13357)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: Emmy F. Larinay dba D&A Dress Shop @322-6950.

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1 BUILDING MAINTENANCE REPAIRER (F 13358)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Employer provided housing with $32.50/monthly charge; medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: Fuji Pacific Inc. @234-0583.

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1 YARD WORKER (F 13359)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Workmen's compensation insurance & medical benefit. Contact: Ramon M. San Nicolas dba Bo's Yard & Lawn Service @287-0626.

1 YARD WORKER (F 13360)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self provided food; workmen's compensation insurance. Contact: Ramon M. San Nicolas dba Bo's Yard & Lawn Service @287-0626.

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1 SALES CLERK (F 13361)
Salary:$3.05/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food; medical & workmen compensation. Contact: Shoji Saito dba Pormang Pinoy @235-4424.

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1 HOUSEWORKER (F 13362)
Salary:$3.55-$4.05/hour. Benefits: $100.00/deductible housing; $100.00/deductible food & medical provided. Contact: Joseph R. Motto @287-3900.

DICKERSON & QUINN
INTERNATIONAL DISTRIBUTORS

Dickerson & Quinn is a leading wholesaler, distributor and manufacturer's representative. We have an opening for a

SALES REPRESENTATIVE

- ❑ This position may initially be on a part-time basis however experienced, qualified applicants only able to accept a full time position will be considered.
- ❑ Experience in wholesale or hospitality industry a plus.
- ❑ Must have own reliable transportation. Expenses will be reimbursed through a generous car plan.
- ❑ Some computer skills required.
- ❑ Professional image with excellent communication skills.
- ❑ The successful applicant will be result oriented and must be well organized, flexible, reliable, punctual, and a self-starter.
- ❑ High School graduate minimum.
- ❑ The succesful applicant only will be required to provide a police clearance.
- ❑ Local Hire or I.R. only please.
- ❑ Applications close February 19th.

Dickerson & Quinn / D&Q Saipan Co., Ltd. is an equal opportunity employer .

For more information, please call 235 2706, or apply in person at Chalan Kiya Industrial Center #4. Fax 235 2711.
E-mail d&q@saipan.com

VEHICLE FOR SALE

2000 HONDA CIVIC

For more information, please contact the Bank of Guam Credit Department at telephone number (670) 233-5000 extension 205, 206, 207, and 208.

Bids will be closed on Friday, February 8, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.

The bank reserves the right to reject any or all offers.

BANK OF GUAM
THE PEOPLE'S BANK
Member FDIC

P.O. Box 500678, Saipan MP 96950

NURSING ASSISTANTS FOR NORTH CAROLINA

New Position Opening: Sign up for immediate travel

Requirement: High School education; US citizenship or residency; certification or experience a plus. Training will be given to those who qualify.

Offer: Full time employment; certification training provided, airfare to North Carolina, first month housing plus other benefits.

To apply contact:

World Health Resources, Inc.
www.whrgroup.com;
(201) 662-8907, (800) 742-2446
Or fax resume to (201) 662-9644. • Email: info@whrgroup.com.

Subscribe to CNMI's First Daily Newspaper

235-NEWS

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
Announcement No. 08-002

POSITION TITLE: Marketing Manager
ANNUAL SALARY: $40,000.00 - $50,000.00**
***Salary will commensurate with qualifications*
LOCATION: Saipan, CNMI
OPENING DATE: January 28, 2008
CLOSING DATE: February 11, 2008
Applications must be submitted by 5:00pm on the closing date.

Minimum Qualification Requirements: Any combination equivalent to a graduate from a recognized college or university with a Bachelor's degree in Marketing, with two (2) years of marketing experience and two (2) years of supervisory experience. Applicant must have good communication skills (verbal and written) and must be proficient with using Microsoft Office software. Applicants may be required to take a written test as part of the application process. All applicants must be a U.S. citizen or an I.R. citizen of the CNMI. Copies of identification are required upon submission of application.

HOW TO APPLY: Interested persons may contact the Marianas Visitors Authority Office at (670) 664-3200/01 or by emailing personnel@mymarianas.com for an employment application form. A completed application should be submitted together with the required documents to complete the application process no later than the closing date of this announcement. Failure to submit all the required documentation will not be considered.

MVA IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Department of Community and Cultural Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Caller Box 10007
Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Department of Community Cultural Affairs is pleased to inform all childcare providers, all government agencies and the general public that the Childcare Program is still on-going. DCCA is now the lead agency for the Child Care Development Program. The following contacts are provided for everyone's information:

Contact Person: **Melvin L.O. Faisao, Acting Secretary**
Linda C. Torres, Acting Program Manager

Office Location: **Bldg. No. 1341 Ascension CT, Capitol Hill**

Contact Numbers: **Tel. 664-2576/ 2574**
Fax: 664-2570

E-mail: faisaom_dcca.deputysecretary@pticom.com

Program Information: **New Registration: (To Be Announced)**

** If you have any questions or need further information, please contact the above person at the above numbers. The Public School System no longer administers the program and any inquiries will be forwarded to the DCCA Childcare Program Section.

/s/ Melvin LO Faisao

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Position: **Manager, Mortgage Credit** **Opening Date: January 19, 2008**
Closing Date: February 20, 2008

Starting Salary: PL 35/01 to PL 35/12 ($28,808 to $49,266 per annum)

Job Location: **NMHC Central Office, Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950**

Detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up, together with NMHC's employment application form, during regular working hours at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan during regular working hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

Applicants are requested to submit their original application and supporting documents to the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, no later than 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, February 20, 2008, **OR MAILED AND POSTMARKED** no later than February 20, 2008, to the Corporate Director, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Edith C. Fejeran, Office Manager at (670) 234-9447/7689 or by email to ecfejeran@nmhc.gov.mp NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/ **JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO**
Corporate Director

Heat send Shaq to Suns for Marion, Banks

PHOENIX (AP)—The Phoenix Suns acquired Shaquille O'Neal in a stunning, blockbuster deal that sent four-time All-Star Shawn Marion and Marcus Banks to the Miami Heat.

The improbable pairing of the speedy Suns and the slow but once-mighty O'Neal became official when he cleared a physical exam Wednesday.

O'Neal didn't talk to reporters, but he received a loud, long standing ovation when introduced on the big screen while watching the New Orleans-Phoenix game from a suite at US Airways Center on Wednesday night.

First, he stood to acknowledge the cheers with both arms open. He sat down again, but as the cheers continued, he got up once more. He pointed to the NBA championship ring he was wearing, then gave a thumbs up. The crowd went wild.

The trade, a dramatic move by first-year Phoenix general manager Steve Kerr, signals an unexpected change in philosophy for the Suns, adding a 7-foot-1, 325-pound center who has won four NBA championships but has been plagued by injuries in recent years and turns 36 next month.

O'Neal has been out with a hip injury and underwent an MRI exam in Miami on Tuesday. He flew to Phoenix on Wednesday for the physical.

"I'm well aware that I'm on the line," Kerr told The Associated Press. "That's my job. That's why I'm sitting in this seat. I'm comfortable with the decision. I think it gives us a better chance to win, and a better chance to win in the playoffs."

The Suns' Amare Stoudemire is a friend of O'Neal and talked to him about his new team.

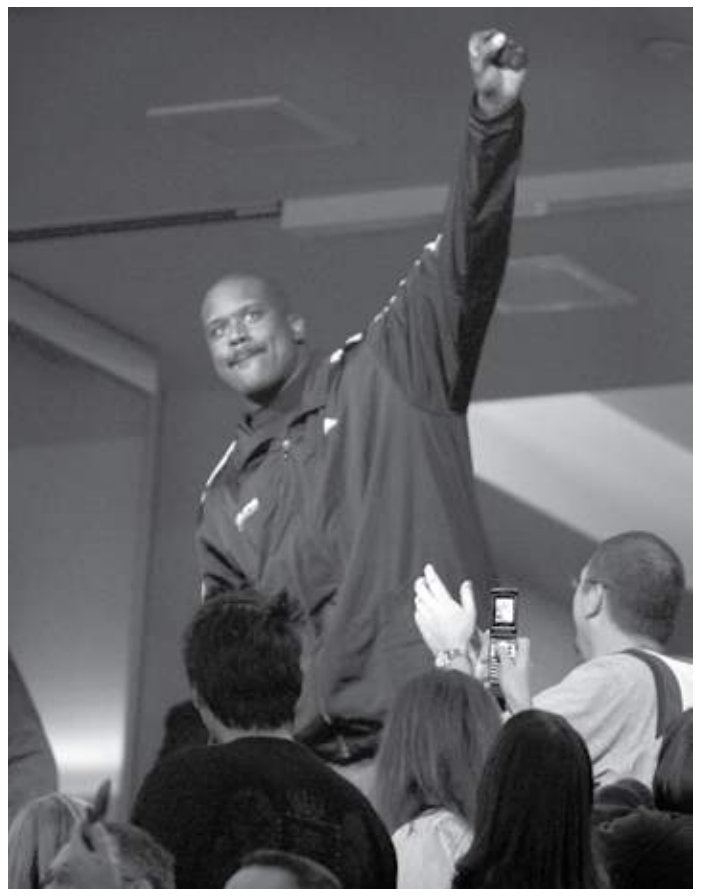
"He says he's ready to roll," Stoudemire said. "Whatever he needs to do he's going to be down for it, and he wants to win a championship, so we're on the same page."

Suns coach Mike D'Antoni said he was wholly in favor of the trade because of the quality of player O'Neal.

"It just makes us better," he said.

The coach is well aware of widespread criticism of the deal because of a belief that Shaq is no longer a formidable player.

"I think you're wrong," D'Antoni said. "He is not going to come to Phoenix and lay an egg. He is focused and ready to roll. He wants to show the pundits that this was a great trade."



AP

Phoenix Suns newly-acquired center Shaquille O'Neal acknowledges fans after being introduced as the Suns play against the New Orleans Hornets in an NBA basketball game, Wednesday, Feb, 6, 2008 in Phoenix.

Team leader Steve Nash also praised the trade.

"There's doubts and a risk to everything," he said. "I know that's going to be a favorite talking point for all the media, but for us the talking point is we've got an incredible, huge, talented, charismatic player in our locker room now. ... This sounds like it's going to be a lot of fun."

O'Neal was to be introduced at a news conference Thursday.

He has averaged 25.6 points and 11.5 rebounds in 16 seasons in the NBA.

This season, plagued by injuries and going through a divorce, he's averaging 14.2 points. His 14-year streak as an All-Star choice came to an end this year.

He missed much of the 2006-07 season with a knee injury and finished that season with career lows in games (40), scoring (17.3 points), rebounds (7.4), minutes (28.4) and free-throw percentage (.422).

"It was a very, very hard decision for me. When Shaq came to the team four years ago, I always felt it was forever. We won a championship with him. We wish him nothing but the best," Heat coach Pat Riley said. "We have to move on with our team. We're rebuilding. This is not the most desirable place to be right now."

He denied that there was any lingering rift with O'Neal.

"I loved Shaq when I got him and I love him today," Riley said. "I've been coaching 25 years and there wasn't anything that went on between Shaq and I that caused this. We simply looked at the big picture, where we are today, and we need to build around Dwyane (Wade)."

The Heat have lost 19 of their last 20 games and have the NBA's worst record at 9-37.

Phoenix gambled that Shaq will be healthy and more motivated when he moves to the desert.

"I do believe we showed Shaq a tremendous amount of respect by sending him to a contender, probably the top contender in the Western Conference and he's going to flourish there, he will help them," Riley said. "He will give them a new life and a new hope and a different game and so I think from that standpoint, he's happy about that."

For the three-plus seasons since Nash came to town, the speedy Suns have been darlings of NBA fans weary of the slow style that has prevailed for years. But the Suns have fallen short in the playoffs, never making it to the finals.

The addition of O'Neal doesn't necessarily put the brakes on the running game, Kerr said.

"We ran when Kurt Thomas was here. He got the rebound, and everybody else ran down the court," Kerr said. "We're still going to run, but we feel like we'll have a better halfcourt team."

Post-Shaq era begins with 100-95 setback to Pistons

AUBURN HILLS, Michigan (AP)—Rasheed Wallace had 26 points and 10 rebounds to lead the Detroit Pistons to a 100-95 win over Miami on Wednesday, a few hours after the Heat traded Shaquille O'Neal.

The Heat sent O'Neal, who won his fourth title in Miami two years ago, to Phoenix for four-time All-Star Shawn Marion and Marcus Banks.

If the Heat were down emotionally about the deal, which was announced within hours of tipoff, they didn't show it. Miami led 22-18 after the first quarter and despite trailing by 11 after the third, the short-handed team did not give up.

Dwayne Wade, who had 30 points and 12 assists, pulled the Heat within a point with just under 3 minutes left and he set up Ricky Davis' 3-pointer to make it 94-92 with 21.5 seconds left.

Richard Hamilton and Chauncey Billups made enough free throws on the next three possessions to seal the win for the Pistons, who have won sixth straight.

Celtics 111, Clippers 100

At Boston, Rajon Rondo scored a career-high 24 points to go with eight assists and five rebounds, coming back from a flagrant foul that knocked him to the floor and bloodied his nose to lead Boston past the Los Angeles Clippers.

A night after losing by one point to Cleveland, the Celtics avoided a losing streak despite missing All-Star Kevin Garnett for the fifth straight game.

Ray Allen scored 19 and Paul Pierce had 15, with reserve Leon Powe adding 13 points and 10 rebounds.

Corey Maggette had 33 points and eight rebounds and sub Cuttino Mobley scored 16 for the Clippers, who beat the New York Knicks on Monday night to snap a nine-game road losing streak.

Magic 100, Nets 84

At Orlando, Florida, Dwight Howard had 21 points and 13 rebounds as Orlando avenged a one-point loss to New Jersey last month.

Vince Carter led the Nets with 18 points, while Jason Kidd had 13 points and seven assists.

Six Magic players scored in double figures. Hedo Turkoglu and Rashard Lewis both scored 19, and Keyon Dooling, Brian Cook and Jameer Nelson each added 11.

Hawks 98, Lakers 95

At Atlanta, Joe Johnson scored 28 points, including four free throws in the final 23 seconds, and Atlanta beat Kobe Bryant and the Los Angeles Lakers.

Josh Smith, who had 17 points, nine rebounds, nine assists and five blocks, hit one of two free throws with 7.1 seconds left to push the lead to three points. Sasha Vujacic answered with a layup for the Lakers with 3.7 seconds left.

Hawks rookie center Al Horford had 15 points and a career-high 20 rebounds. Lamar Odom led the Lakers with 19 points and 11 rebounds.

Spurs 85, Wizards 77

At Washington, Robert Horry got San Antonio in gear after a lackluster 2 1/2 quarters, scoring seven of his season-high nine points in the 17-4 spurt that gave his team the lead over Washington for good.

Tim Duncan had 23 points, nine rebounds and four assists, and Fabricio Oberto had 10 points and 11 rebounds for the Spurs, who are 3-2 on their nine-game rodeo road trip and improved to .500 (11-11) on the road this season.

Antawn Jamison scored 18 points, and Andray Blatche had 16 points and a career-high 15 rebounds for the Wizards, who have lost five straight. Washington again played without All-Star forward Caron Butler, who sat out for the fourth time in six games because of a strained left hip flexor.

Pacers 103, Knicks 100

At New York, Kareem Rush scored 24 points, and Indiana used a strong defensive effort in the fourth quarter to beat New York and snap a seven-game losing streak.

Mike Dunleavy added 17 points and Danny Granger had 16 for the Pacers, who held the Knicks to three field goals in the final 8 1/2 minutes, an impressive turnaround after they surrendered 116 points against San Antonio on Tuesday in their most lopsided loss of the season.

Marquis Daniels had a strong final quarter and finished with 13 points in Indiana's franchise-best third straight victory in New York.

Zach Randolph scored 26 points for the Knicks, who dropped their seventh straight.

Hornets 132, Suns 130, 2OT

At Phoenix, Peja Stojakovic sank a 22-foot shot at the buzzer to give New Orleans a double-overtime victory over Phoenix.

Chris Paul scored 42, one off his career high, but had only two after regulation for New Orleans. Jannero Pargo scored 12 of his 22 points in the two overtimes. Stojakovic added 26 points and David West 21 and 13 rebounds for the Hornets, who were without Tyson Chandler because of the flu.

Amare Stoudemire had 26 points and a season-best 20 rebounds for Phoenix. Steve Nash had 32 points and 12 assists, but committed 10 of the Suns' 20 turnovers.

The thriller came at the end of a monumental day for the Suns franchise. They acquired Shaquille O'Neal in a trade that sent Marion and Marcus Banks to Miami.

Jazz 118, Nuggets 115, OT

At Denver, Kyle Korver's 27 points, including four free throws in the final 19 seconds of overtime, sent Utah to its 10th straight win.

Utah improved to 16-2 since acquiring Korver from the Philadelphia 76ers on Dec. 29, surging past Denver and Portland and into the lead in the Northwest Division.

Deron Williams led the Jazz with 29 points, including a 3-pointer with 17.8 seconds left in regulation that tied it at 106.

Mavericks 107, Bucks 96

At Dallas, Dirk Nowitzki had 29 points, 10 rebounds and 12 assists for his first career triple-double, and Dallas stretched its home winning streak to eight games.

Nowitzki, the defending league MVP, consistently passed out of double-teams to open teammates as he registered his first career game with double-digit assists. Dallas' last triple-double was by Antoine Walker on Jan. 14, 2004, against Philadelphia with 11 points, 17 rebounds and 13 assists.

Jason Terry added 23 points off the bench, and Josh Howard had 17 points for Dallas to help offset a season-high 36 points by Milwaukee's Mo Williams, including 28 in the first half.

Trail Blazers 100, Bulls 97

At Portland, Oregon, Brandon Roy scored 28 points and Portland held off the short-handed Chicago.

LaMarcus Aldridge added 18 points for the Blazers, who led by as many as 13 points in the second half.

Nocioni also had 22 points for the Bulls.

SuperSonics 105, Kings 92

At Sacramento, California, Earl Watson had 23 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists for his first career triple-double for Seattle.

Johan Petro scored nine straight points in the run that helped Seattle go ahead 94-73 with 8:06 remaining.

Kevin Durant scored 17 points, Chris Wilcox had 15 points and 10 rebounds, while Nick Collison and Kurt Thomas each had 13 points.

Ron Artest scored 20 points for the Kings, who had their season-best four-game winning streak snapped.

Mora taking over for Holmgren in '09

KIRKLAND, Wash. (AP)—Good thing Jim Mora is renowned for his nonstop energy. He now has three job titles with the Seahawks.

Assistant head coach. Defensive backs coach. And head coach-designate.

Seattle set an NFL precedent Wednesday by giving Mora a four-year contract to succeed Mike Holmgren. Just not yet.

Holmgren announced last month he will fulfill the final season of his contract with the Seahawks in 2008, leaving Mora to return for one more season in his other two roles.

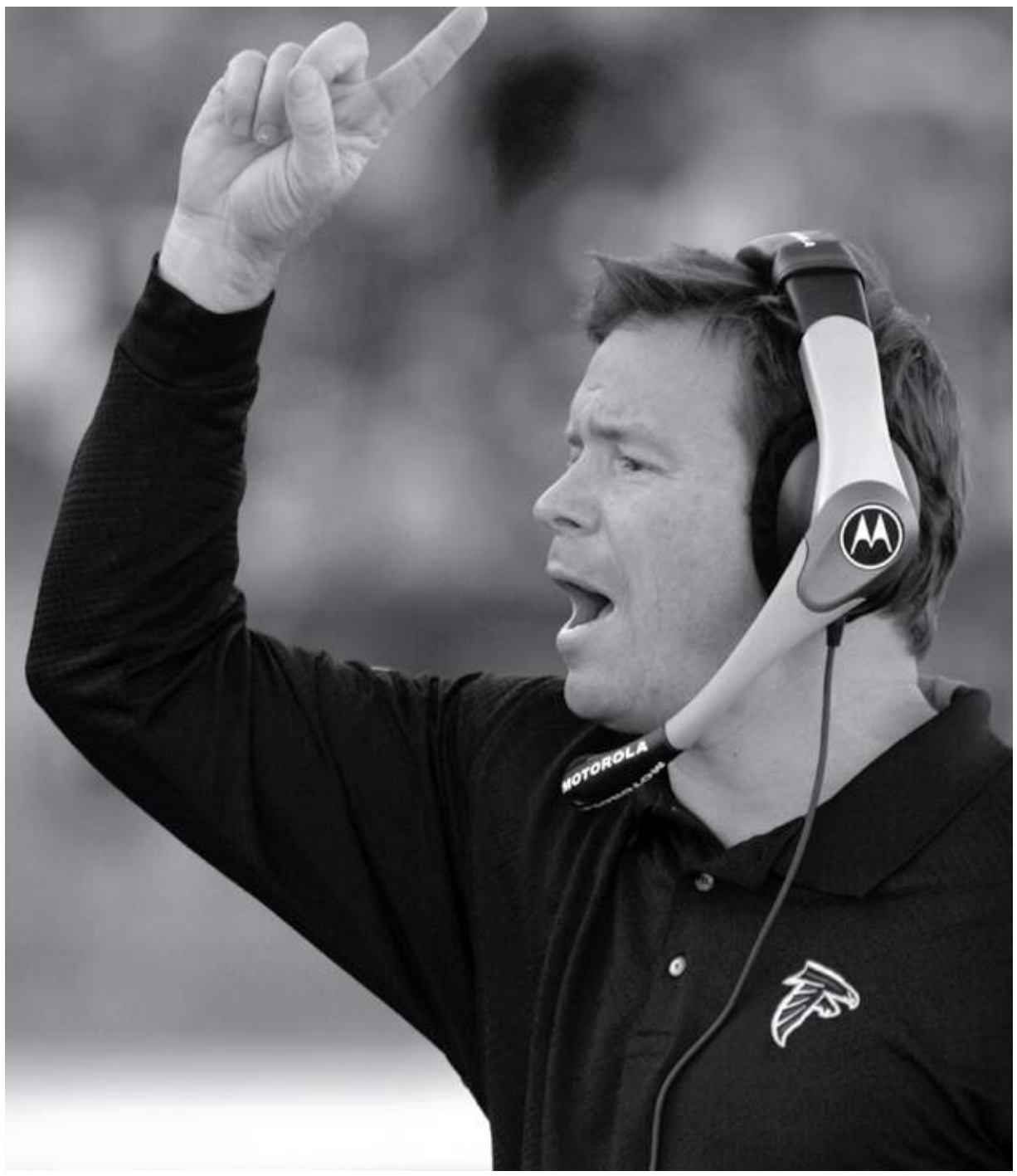
Then the 46-year-old Mora will become Seattle's seventh head coach. It's a deal one person with knowledge of the contract said will put Mora "in the upper echelon of coaches in the National Football League."

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the Seahawks do not divulge financial terms of contracts.

That means Mora will be getting at least $5 million per season, about double what Atlanta is paying him this year. Mora was fired as Falcons' head coach on New Year's Day 2007 with a year left on his contract. In his three seasons in Atlanta, the Falcons were 26-22 and played in the 2004 NFC championship game.

"It's a very, very good contract," the source said.

Holmgren is believed to be making $8 million annually. Washington's Joe Gibbs had a five-year, $27.5 million contract until he retired again from the Redskins last month. New England's Bill Belichick was widely reported to have received a contract extension last year that is believed to be worth more than $5 million annually. Mike Shanahan reportedly received a raise from his $5 million-per-year deal with Denver when he got a three-year extension from the Broncos last year.



AP

Atlanta Falcons head coach Jim Mora yells instructions in the second half of their NFL football game against the Cincinnati Bengals in Cincinnati, in this Oct. 29, 2006 file photo.

The Seahawks are not the first NFL team to designate a coach-in-waiting. The Indianapolis Colts recently announced Jim Caldwell as the eventual replacement for Tony Dungy, whenever Dungy decides to retire.

However, the Seahawks are believed to be the first team to have a coach already under contract, with a known start date, while the outgoing coach remains on the job.

"What (Holmgren's) done here, by announcing his retirement a year ahead of time, has afforded this organization to make a smooth transition, to be seamless, to be non-chaotic," Seahawks president Tim Ruskell said. "Which is kind of rare in the sports world—certainly in the NFL.

"We all know about the elongated processes and the back-stabbing, some of the ugly things that can go on. Well, we're not going to have that."

The 59-year-old Holmgren, the Seahawks winningest coach with 86 victories in 10 seasons, pushed for the Mora announcement so players who are poised to enter free agency next month can judge Seattle, knowing who its coach will be.

"This makes a lot of sense for the organization," Holmgren said in a team statement. "Jim is a talented coach who already had a measure of success in this league and has all the tools here needed to succeed."

The announcement was also unique in that neither Holmgren nor Mora were there. Ruskell said the two coaches didn't want to "make a big splash" and overlook the team's mission for 2008: sending Holmgren out with the franchise's first Super Bowl title, after five consecutive playoff appearances.

"I am extremely excited about the future, but completely focused on the opportunity we have in front of us this season," Mora said in the statement.

The Seahawks' unique move allowed them to bypass the league's Rooney Rule that requires team with head coaching vacancies to interview minority candidates. The rule does not apply to promotions within a team's own staff.

Last month, while Holmgren was contemplating whether to return, Mora removed himself from consideration for the vacant head coaching job with the Washington Redskins.

"He told us, 'I know I will get another shot,'" Ruskell said of Mora.

Mora went to high school in the Seattle area while his father was an assistant at the University of Washington. Many UW fans called for him to replace Tyrone Willingham as the Huskies' next coach, after the team had its third consecutive losing season. Willingham, who inherited a program in disarray, has been promised no more than the 2008 season by the school president.

When asked Wednesday what his reaction was to Mora getting the Seahawks' job in 2009 instead, Willingham said stoically: "Didn't have one. Isn't that a good thing for them?"

Spagnuolo has all-day talks with 'Skins

WASHINGTON (AP)—Steve Spagnuolo's interview with the Washington Redskins turned into a marathon.

The architect of the defense that won the Super Bowl spent about 10 hours Wednesday meeting with owner Dan Snyder about the Redskins coaching vacancy, starting in the morning and continuing well into the evening.

That's on top of the 90 minutes the two spent on the phone Monday evening and the first face-to-face portion of the interview at Snyder's house Tuesday night. The talks ran late Tuesday, with the New York Giants defensive coordinator spending the night in a guesthouse on the owner's property, as other candidates have done during the team's monthlong search.

The talks were confirmed by two people familiar with the Redskins selection process who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the team has preferred to keep the details private.

Snyder is known for holding long sessions with coaching candidates, with preliminary talks often exceeding 12 hours and follow-up meetings held later. The schedule with Spagnuolo is more compressed because the Redskins had to wait until after the Super Bowl to interview him.

Spagnuolo, Indianapolis Colts defensive coordinator Ron Meeks and former Giants coach Jim Fassel are the three leading contenders to replace Joe Gibbs, who resigned Jan. 8. Snyder has met several times with both Meeks and Fassel.

The owner planned to consider his options and possibly make a decision Wednesday night. He has said he would like to have a coach in place by the end of the week.

Spagnuolo became a hot commodity during the Giants' championship run, which culminated with their 17-14 Super Bowl upset of the New England Patriots.

Goodell willing to pursue Spygate info

HONOLULU (AP)—NFL commissioner Roger Goodell is willing to pursue any believable information in the Spygate case.

Goodell said Wednesday the league has been in touch with representatives of former New England Patriots assistant coach Matt Walsh, now a golf pro in Maui. Walsh, who did video work for the Patriots when they won their first Super Bowl after the 2001 season, was not interviewed as part of the NFL's investigation into New England illegally taping opposing coaches in the last two years.

"If there is new information that is credible, new material that could be credible that would help us," Goodell said, "yes, we'll look at it.

"We've had people come to us over the last six months with material that we pursued and it didn't lead to anything."

Goodell said he didn't know if there might be more information available.

Sen. Arlen Specter, with whom Goodell said he expects to meet in the next week or so, questioned the thoroughness of the NFL's investigation that led to a $500,000 fine for coach Bill Belichick, a $250,000 fine for the Patriots organization, and the loss of this year's first-round draft pick. Specter also wondered why Goodell had the six tapes turned over by the Patriots destroyed, along with notes the team gave Goodell.

Walsh, who did not return phone messages and an e-mail from The Associated Press, reportedly videotaped the St. Louis Rams' walkthrough the day before the February 2002 Super Bowl against New England.

"We were aware of this before," Goodell said. "We pursued it and weren't able to get any information that was credible. We were aware of some of the rumors and we pursued some of them and we continue that. From Day 1, I said if we feel there is new information that's inconsistent with what we've been told (by the Patriots), I reserve the right to reopen it.

"The staffs are talking about making sure (Walsh) has the ability to talk and what information he might have."

Goodell spoke during the AFC team practice for the Pro Bowl. He was asked if the league received any information about other teams taping opposing coaches' signals.

"We had and pursued it and found nothing credible," Goodell said.

Asked why the Patriots turned over six tapes, he replied: "That's what they had. My guess is they taped over some of those from time to time ... their notes were reflective of that."

Taping over previous video is not unusual for NFL teams.

"We asked for all the tapes and anything that could've been done that was inconsistent with our policy," he added.

He also mentioned a possible rotation of sites for the Pro Bowl. Honolulu has it on Sunday and again next February. After that, the NFL has no agreements with any venue.

"I think that's viable," he said of a rotation, "and that's an alternative, obviously. Hawaii is important to us and has been great to us."

He also said staging the Pro Bowl the week before the Super Bowl—without Super Bowl participants, of course—was a consideration. Any such change would require approval from the NFL Players Association.

Goodell also mingled with several players, spending about 10 minutes talking to Ravens safety Ed Reed, then chatting with Peyton Manning and Derek Anderson before heading back to league headquarters in New York.

Santana gets lavish introduction at Shea

NEW YORK (AP)—The house lights dimmed, music was turned up and a video montage of Johan Santana highlights started rolling on a screen so wide you could almost see the seams on every pitch.

Every minute or so, the string of strikeouts was interrupted by a famous New Yorker welcoming Santana to the Big Apple. There was Chris Rock, Alec Baldwin, Jerry Seinfeld.

The Mets spent big money on their new ace last week and then choreographed a lavish introduction Wednesday at Shea Stadium's Diamond Club, set to some familiar guitar riffs by rock star Carlos Santana.

When it was over, the other Santana—the one with two Cy Young Awards—smiled as he pulled on his No. 57 jersey and blue New York Mets cap for the first time.

"It's a new chapter in my career," he said. "I'm going to make my time here special."

After an extended photo shoot and a brief statement, Santana fielded questions at a news conference packed with 139 credentialed media members. The former Minnesota Twins star answered many with cliches, saying he would take things one step at a time and success was a team effort.

Still, he appeared perfectly comfortable at the center of the swarm.

"I spent eight years in the American League. You have to make a lot of adjustments," Santana said as his wife and father looked on. "Now, in the National League, it's going to be a learning process. But I'll be ready."

He also understands that Mets fans demand a World Series championship—or at least an NL pennant—immediately following last year's September collapse.

"That's what we're here for," Santana said. "I think we've got the right guys to do it."

The left-hander insisted he doesn't anticipate much difficulty in adapting to New York, though other stars such as Alex Rodriguez, Roger Clemens and Carlos Beltran have needed time to get comfortable.

"I think the game is the same," Santana said. "I'm not going to let that affect what I do on the field.

"Coming to New York, you know you're going to have a chance to win. And that's what I want," he added. "It wasn't a tough decision."

Santana walked into the news conference past a gift shop already stocked with replicas of his new jersey. Later, he posed for pictures at Shea Stadium and in front of the team's new ballpark, which is under construction in the parking lot. The Mets plan to move into Citi Field in 2009.

General manager Omar Minaya introduced Santana, who agreed last Friday to a $137.5 million, six-year contract that allowed his trade from Minnesota to be finalized the following day. Minaya pronounced it was the start of "a great era of Mets baseball."

"Welcome to the city of baseball," the GM said.

Mets manager Willie Randolph, having acquired an ace for his staff, looked on from his front-row seat. Giddy, he put his arm around chief operating officer Jeff Wilpon and embraced him.

"You should be happy, Willie," Minaya said. "You should be happy."

Santana's numbers slipped last season. He finished 15-13 and lost seven of his final 11 decisions as his ERA rose from 2.60 to 3.33, his highest since 2001. He allowed a career-high 33 homers - most in the AL.

"I don't know, man. It's part of the game. You're going to have slumps, I guess," he said. "I don't really have an answer for it."

His agent, Peter Greenberg, revealed that the deadline for the Twins to make a trade was mutually agreed to with Minnesota general manager Bill Smith around Jan. 22. The initial deadline was Jan. 28, but the sides agreed to push it back a day because executives of some of the interested teams weren't available.

Santana had a full-no trade clause, which meant he could control his destination. Greenberg said the Mets were Santana's first choice but that all three bidders were acceptable.

"I think he would have been perfectly happy if he had went to Yankees. I think he would have been perfectly happy if he had went to the Red Sox," Greenberg said.

Mets fans are glad Santana ended up in Queens. On Friday, the team had sold about 100,000 more tickets than at the same time last year, when it set a franchise attendance record at 3.85 million. By Wednesday, sales were 175,000 tickets ahead of last season's pace.

"When they announced that we got him, everybody kind of congratulated me like I just had a baby or something," Randolph said.

MLB BRIEFS

McNamee's lawyers: evidence backs client

NEW YORK (AP)—Brian McNamee gave federal prosecutors syringes and other physical evidence his lawyers say back the personal trainer's allegations of drug use by Roger Clemens, who returns to Capitol Hill on Thursday in hopes of rebutting the accusations. Clemens, who gave a deposition Tuesday, is scheduled to hold one-on-one meetings with members of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, two people familiar with the plans said, speaking on condition of anonymity because no announcement was made. Among the members Clemens is to meet with is Rep. Tom Davis, the committee's ranking Republican, one of the people said. Committee chairman Henry Waxman is not scheduled to meet with Clemens. McNamee is due to meet with committee staff Thursday morning to give his own deposition, and his legal team said it will bolster his story with details of the evidence. His side turned over gauze pads and syringes they said had Clemens' blood to IRS Special Agent Jeff Novitzky in early January, a person familiar with the evidence said, speaking on condition of anonymity because McNamee's lawyers did not want to publicly discuss details. The syringes were used to inject Clemens with steroids and human growth hormone, the person said. A second person, also speaking on condition of anonymity, said the evidence was from 2000 and 2001.

Rangers hire Nolan Ryan as president

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Twenty years later, Nolan Ryan's job is to once again revitalize the Texas Rangers. The Rangers introduced the Hall of Fame pitcher as team president Wednesday with the fanfare of a major free-agent pickup, just as Ryan was in 1988 when Texas signed the right-hander to help fill seats and bring wins to the struggling franchise. Only now, the 61-year-old career strikeout leader who set many of his greatest milestones in a Rangers jersey is tasked with doing the same from the front office. "Another thing in my career that I never anticipated," Ryan said. "You really wonder where baseball and life is going to take you." Ryan threw an unmatched seven no-hitters and won 324 games in a record 27 major league seasons. The last five of those came with the Rangers and included his final two no-hitters and 5,000th strikeout. Texas owner Tom Hicks, whose team has finished no better than third in the AL West since 2000, called the hiring a pivotal point in club history. Ryan retired with the Rangers in 1993, leaving the game as a fan favorite who was as well known for his sizzling fastball as his toughness and work ethic. "Nolan is the biggest hero we've ever had as an organization," Hicks said. "He's our hero. He's also a guy who happens to be a very successful businessman."

Realtors, Giants grab 3-2 lead

MANILA, Philippines—The animosity between coaches in the Sta. Lucia-Alaska series has ended, thanks to a brilliant job by Boyet Fernandez which left Tim Cone no other choice but to praise his opponent to high heavens.

Sta. Lucia Realty blew a 17-point third quarter lead and had to bleed in the stretch to pound out a 95-90 victory over Alaska for a 3-2 series lead in their Smart PBA Philippine Cup semifinal duel Wednesday night at the Araneta Coliseum in Cubao, Quezon City.

In the second game, Purefoods also took a 3-2 series lead by nipping Red Bull, 96-95.

Cone, who had given Fernandez the cold shoulder in the last three games, later went to midcourt to shake his conqueror's hand and give him a warm and sincere embrace.

"He coached a hell of a game and did not lose his composure. He deserved to win this ballgame," Cone told reporters later in reference to Fernandez even as he took potshots at the officiating that has been very inconsistent in the series.

"We broke down. It came down to the (Alaska) team not executing well."

The Realtors refused to buckle down after the Aces had erased a 64-47 deficit to even lead with 6:11 in the fourth period, getting key help from their much-maligned veterans, who rose to the challenge in the stretch.

Paolo Mendoza finished with 19 points, the biggest of his five three-pointers and a left-handed layup, keeping the Realtors in the thick of the fight in the middle of the fourth period, 86-all.

After trailing for the last time at 86-87 on a Mike Cortez split off a flagrant foul by Mendoza, Sta. Lucia held Alaska to a Willie Miller three-point play the rest of the way to move within its first championship series appearance in ages.

"I don't think we'll allow them to beat us two games in a row," Fernandez said.

First Game:

Sta. Lucia 95 – Mendoza 19, Aquino 18, Espino 16, Yeo 14, Williams 13, Miranda 7, Omolon 6, Reyes 2, Coronel 0, Daa 0, Gonzales 0.

Alaska 90 – Miller 23, Aban 14, Cortez 14, Ferriols 13, Dela Cruz 10, Cariaso 5, Bono 4, Bajar 3, Quinahan 2, Thoss 2, Hugnatan 0.

Quarters: 21-20, 48-37, 76-69, 95-90

Second Game

Purefoods 96 – Yap J. 25, Raymundo 18, Castillo 17, Pingris 15, Adducul 8, Simon 7, Salvador 4, Lanete 2, Yap R. 0, Evangelista 0.

Red Bull 95 – Baguio 21, Pennisi 15, Adriano 14, Valenzuela 11, Hrabak 10, Cruz 8, Ybanez 7, Membrere 5, Sharma 4, Bugia 0, Robinson 0.

Quarters: 40-17, 58-41, 80-71, 96-95. ***(PDI)***

HAFADAI

From Page 44

spot for Aquarius, scoring a team-high 22 points with four rebounds and one assist. Ryan Rapanut and Art Trajano combined for 21 points, 20 rebounds, two assists, and three steals.

Action continues on Sunday with defending champion Aqua Resort opening up the tripleheader when they face a pumped-up Hafadai side in the 3pm first game.

Hyatt tries to bounce back from its loss when they clash with a luckless Aquarius side in the 4:30pm second match, while PIC takes on Saipan World Resort in the last game.

First Game

Pacific Islands Club 89 – Abuy 14, Tudela 13, Kaipat 11, Baterina 8, Pungilug 8, Swain 7, Tolentino 7, Lee 6, Bartolo 4, Patricio 4, Pambid 3, Fernandez 2, Valdez 2.

Aquarius Beach Tower 59 – Barbo 22, Rapanu 11, Trajano 10, Garcia 5, Guzman 4, Achas 2, Camacho 2, Cordero 2, Alvarez 1.

Scoring by quarters: 23-11, 42-25, 67-42, 89-59.

Second Game

Hafadai Beach Hotel 100 – Bamba 36, Iguel 28, Nedlic 16, Olaitiman 11, Baculud 5, Andal 2, Mendoza 2.

Hyatt Regency Saipan 88 – Aquino 28, Mendoza 19, Dillay 12, Tenorio 10, Umali 8, Magno 7, Arreza 2, Vargas 2.

Scoring by quarters: 30-18, 52-41, 73-63, 100-88.

NMITA

From Page 44

weekend from and will be held at the American Memorial Park tennis courts from Feb. 16 to 18.

"It is always fun to kick off the year and the one where we need to get the adults out to play so that we can fill up the 'mixed-up' doubles draw," said NMITA vice president Jeff Race. "I hope you enjoy the year and stay fit and healthy playing tennis."

The "mixed-up" doubles is an event in the Coconut Classic where one adult will be paired with one child on a random draw format. The pairs will be drawn out of the hat to play together.

NMITA will then co-organize the Pacific Islands Club Tennis Tournament next month where local players will compete for the singles and doubles titles in various divisions.

The PIC tennis will be held for two weekends, from March 28 to 30 and from April 4 to 6.

The following weekend after the PIC tennis, it will be the young players turn to shine for the CNMI Junior Tennis Tournament. The event starts on April 12 and 13 and ends on April 19 and 20.

The 27th DFS Micronesian Tennis Tournament, the longest-running tennis tournament on Saipan, returns in May at the PIC tennis courts. The Micronesian tennis is a seven-day event held separately from May 16 to 18 and from May 23 to 26.

The CNMI's best 18-and-under junior players will then head to Guam, for the year's first off-island tournament, the International Tennis Federation-North Pacific Qualifying Event. Games will be held from June 16 to 20.

Players from the CNMI, the Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, and Palau will be competing for the eight slots available for the North Pacific team.

A select few of 18-and-under players will also get the chance to see action in the ITF-South Pacific Open Junior Tennis tournament from June 29 to July 5 in Lautoka, Fiji.

The eight members of the North team will compete against the West and East squads in the Pacific Oceania Junior Tennis Tournament (Closed) from Aug. 11 to 15 in Lautoka, Fiji.

The Top 4 finishers in each division in the POJT will advance to the ITF-Oceana Closed Junior Tennis Tournament from Aug. 17 to 21 also in Fiji.

Tennis action returns locally with the Fall Classic Tennis Tournament from Nov. 8 to 10 at AMP tennis courts.

NMITA will conclude its tennis season by competing in the Guam Junior Tennis Tournament from Dec. 27 to 29 in Guam.

REZNE

From Page 44

a totally different experience for Wong as he would be a more mature swimmer and will gauge his skill in the pool against the best junior swimmers in the world, according to Kimura.

"He now knows what is Junior Olympics is all about. His new target is to be able to swim at the competition," he added.

Aside from swimming in the Junior Olympics, Wong has also set his sights to swim in college either in Hawaii or his parents' home country of the Philippines.

In an earlier interview, the eldest son of Eli and Millet Wong said that his most memorable experience in swimming was when he won a gold medal in the 2006 Micronesian Games on Saipan.

The win came after days of frustration and followed what turned out to be a good sign from the heavens—clouds shaped like a heart—when Wong looked up moments before the start of the 200m individual medley.

UNLIKELY

From Page 44

in their area.

The book examines the plight of numerous destinations aspiring to attain the lofty status of FIFA membership and several splinter competitions. Countries attempting to ascend to FIFA status range from the tragic (Kosovo) to the politically entangled (Zanzibar, Northern Cyprus, Tibet, Gibraltar) to the administratively hindered (a slew of islands affiliated with Great Britain, Monaco, Greenland) to the absurd (The Vatican, Sealand). There is a tribe of people dispersed over the northern reaches of Finland, Sweden and Norway called the Sampi efforting to gain admittance.

The most fascinating and frustrating aspect of the book is that FIFA does not have either a clear cut inclusion criteria or a precise definition of what constitutes a country. FIFA's own by-laws and precedent only makes the process more confounding as they must balance their own best interests with those of their existing members. FIFA's longstanding public claim to be apolitical is never to be taken seriously.

China has allowed Hong Kong and Macau into FIFA's fold, but has blocked Tibet's efforts to become a member at every move. Great Britain is not one team, but four (England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland). Guam and Puerto Rico, both U.S. minions, are full-fledged FIFA members.

Menary points out that 23 of the 207 present FIFA members are not even considered countries by the United Nations.

Of all the communities reviewed in the book, the Northern Mariana Islands stands remarkably alone in their success and happenstance. From its humble onset in 2005 under the leadership of Peter Coleman and Jerry Tan, the NMIFA wished only for a dependable avenue to involve the youth of the island in the world's most popular sport. That has since morphed into a much more grand ambition with the assistance of the Guam Football Association and the sponsorship of the East Asian Football Federation (EAFF).

The book chronicles the unprecedented success of sending the NMIFA Boys UI4 squad to the EAFF Championships in 2006 and the NMIFA Men's National Team to the EAFF playoff with Guam in 2007. The remarkable aspect of these events is not the NMIFA quality of play, certainly, but the fact that they were involved in officially sanctioned matches at all. The NMIFA Women's National Team has also played in a friendly international and will be on track for a full international in the EAFF Championships next year. This has all occurred in a mere two-year span.

Many countries with deep football roots are still hoping for just such a chance. Zanzibar, with a population over a million persons and a distinct national football association since 1926, is still waiting for their first internationally recognized match. Despite many aspects that would indicate they are a separate nation, FIFA insists they are part of the Tanzanian Football Federation. Consider Kosovo, a country which could field a quality team on the world stage, left in perpetual FIFA limbo as the demons of the Balkan Conflict still swirl in this arena. Serbia, a present FIFA member, insists it will never recognize Kosovo's independence.

The NMIFA chapter is an expansion from the article Menary did for World Soccer Magazine in July 2007. Most of the data is pulled from articles that appeared in the local newspapers and from direct email correspondence with the principals. There are a few names spelled incorrectly in the local cast of characters, however, and several other incidental inaccuracies. The attention given to the NMIFA Women's effort could have been expanded as they provide a very strong aspect to the NMIFA story as well.

The book is timely in regards to the NMIFA drive to becoming FIFA members. The local FA still has no decided plan for a true stadium and there remains a paucity of pitches available for the players on Saipan. Standing by-laws are still a promise. The most recent women's season will be a depleted seven-a-side affair. The development of referees has been slow. Yet, despite these hurdles as Menary illustrates in his book, the NMIFA may actually have an outside shot at gaining the coveted entry into FIFA's graces. NMIFA has influential benefactors as well as a unique political and geographical identity. These facts and a bit of good fortune just may allow the Northern Mariana Islands to succeed where so many others have been left wanting for so long.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	37	9	.804	_
Toronto	26	21	.553	11 1/2
New Jersey	20	29	.408	18 1/2
Philadelphia	19	30	.388	19 1/2
New York	14	35	.286	24 1/2

Southeast Division

Orlando	32	19	.627	_
Washington	24	24	.500	6 1/2
Atlanta	21	24	.467	8
Charlotte	18	31	.367	13
Miami	9	38	.191	21

Central Division

Detroit	35	13	.729	_
Cleveland	27	20	.574	7 1/2
Indiana	20	30	.400	16
Chicago	19	29	.396	16
Milwaukee	19	31	.380	17

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Dallas	33	15	.688	_
New Orleans	33	15	.688	_
San Antonio	31	16	.660	1 1/2
Houston	28	20	.583	5
Memphis	13	35	.271	20

Northwest Division

Utah	32	18	.640	_
Denver	29	19	.604	2
Portland	28	20	.583	3
Seattle	13	36	.265	18 1/2
Minnesota	10	37	.213	20 1/2

Pacific Division

Phoenix	34	15	.694	_
L.A. Lakers	31	17	.646	2 1/2
Golden State	29	19	.604	4 1/2
Sacramento	22	25	.468	11
L.A. Clippers	15	31	.326	17 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Orlando 100, New Jersey 84
Atlanta 98, L.A. Lakers 95
San Antonio 85, Washington 77
Detroit 100, Miami 95
Indiana 103, New York 100
Boston 111, L.A. Clippers 100
Dallas 107, Milwaukee 96
Utah 118, Denver 115, OT
New Orleans 132, Phoenix 130, 2OT
Portland 100, Chicago 97
Seattle 105, Sacramento 92

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

HANMI Cup Standings

Fiesta-Grand	5	1
Aqua Resort Club	5	1
Pacific Islands Club	4	1
Hafadai Beach Hotel	3	3
Hyatt Regency Saipan	2	3
Saipan World Resort	1	5
Aquarius Beach Tower	0	5

Masters Softball Standings

Chelus	6	0
Salty Boyz	4	2
Red Torch	3	3
Seabridge	3	3
MGD Rock Steady	2	4
PTI 83	2	4
Kebloes	1	6

Volunteers wanted for Saipan Sportsfest

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Organizers of the Saipan Sportsfest are looking for more volunteers that will help them in the 10-day event from March 7 to 16.

Volunteers committee head Wolf Mojica said additional personnel is needed for assisting organizers starting on March 7, Friday, with the XTERRA 5- and 10-kilometer Sunset Trail Runs.

The event starts at 3pm and volunteers are needed with the registration. Volunteers will also be tasked to monitor the race beginning at 5pm and will end at around at 6pm.

A pre-XTERRA party will take place after the Sunset Run at the Pacific Islands Club to welcome all off-island participants and professional athletes that will join the 7th XTERRA Saipan Championships.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
Volunteers attend to some of the athletes that completed last year's XTERRA Saipan Championships.

On March 8, Saturday, the XTERRA Saipan Championship starts at 6:30am and Mojica said volunteers must show up no later than 6:45am at Micro Beach at the American Memorial Park for assignments.

"These assignments include help with the transition areas, traffic control out on the course, directing participants at different intersections along the course including in the jungle at some stages, handing out water and food, policing the finish line compound, and other duties as assigned," said Mojica.

A children's bicycle race will also take place at 7:30am around AMP and volunteers will also be needed to monitor the course and help get the race finish before the first biker in the XTERRA Sprint comes in. Food and drinks will be provided to all volunteers.

Mojica said volunteers must stay once the race is over to help them in breaking down all the equipment and cleaning up the site. The banquet for XTERRA Saipan will also be held on the same day at PIC.

For Tagaman, the festivities begin with a Carbo party on March 14, Friday also at PIC. The race proper begins at 6am the following day at the PIC beach.

All aid stations will be manned by different organizations that volunteered to give water to all participants. Volunteers are also needed to help organizers and Department of Public Safety with traffic control and to assist with the Tagakids triathlon, which will be held beginning at 7:30am at Micro Beach.

"We will need a lot of help monitoring and herding the kids in this event," said Mojica, who added that the event should end by 12noon. "[Afterwards] we just need help with the clean up."

Mojica said he would send out more information as the event nears and a volunteers meeting will take place by the last week of February or first week of March to finalize everything.

"We are looking for committed people who will be where they say they are going to be when they say they are going to be there so I look forward to working with you on these fabulous events," Mojica said.

Tentative fight card released for 'The Uproar'

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Trench Warz and Rites of Passage organizer Cuki Alvarez released a tentative list of 19 fights for the upcoming Rites of Passage IV: The Uproar to be held on Feb. 16 at the Trench Tech Purebred Gym behind Moylan's Insurance.

"Badd" Brad Palacios will be featured in the main event as the 140-lb fighter stakes his young mixed martial arts career to the 145-lb Eddie Blas.

But before the Palacios-Blas main event match, 18 other matches will take place. Alvarez, however, reminded fight fans that the fight card is subject to change.

Team Haga's Carl Jesse Takai will face Shane "Pika Boo" Alvarez of Trench Tech as both 130-lb. fighters open up Saturday's no-holds barred event. The Gregory Camacho-Gino "Asu" Asanuma match will follow shortly.

J.J. "The Mauler Malite of Team Pwang will test the mettle of Trench Tech's Pete "Gun" Borja while Perry Takai battles Reagan Malite in the next match.

Rick "2-Slick" San Nicolas of South Side Syndicates will gun for his first win when he faces Trench Tech's Ron Chisato, while Gracie Barra's Jesse Santos (115 lbs) tackles Zalaka's Lyle Deleon Guerrero (118 lbs) in a scheduled bantamweight match.

A middleweight match will also take place where Pwang's Peter Keju takes on Tom Kim as both fighters tipped the scales at 155 lbs. Japan's Joji battles Faustino Litulumar, while Alex Takeo will trade punches with Alvin Taitano in the ninth match of the night.

Freestyle's Martin Ayuyu takes on Maitai Charlie of Marianas Elite, while Independent fighter A.J. Cepeda will face Team Tinian's Johmar Untala in a grudge match.

Another Independent fighter, Rob "Pitbull" Palacios will clash with Ponapeii Power's Joseph Seman, while Mark Hapdei collides with Joe Rabauliman in the night's lone heavyweight match.

Zalaka's Arnold Balbin will stake his yearlong training against Stan "Bad Intentions" Tapuaialupe Iakopo of Team Samoa, while Team Tinian's Conrad Iba will face J.D. "Out" Reyes in the semi event.

Alvarez also prepared three standby consolation matches between the 240-lb Jeff Norita against the 235-lb Ton Cabrera, while Nate "Nats' Flores will take on C.J. Kladikan. Chris Layug will face Ben Mettao in the battle of 140-pounders.

Tickets are already available for Rites of Passage IV: The Uproar at Boarderline, Da Rocksteady Shop, and the Trench Tech Purebred Saipan Gym.

Fight organizer Cuki Alvarez said only 400 tickets are printed for the Feb. 16 event so he is advising mixed martial arts fans could secure theirs. Tickets are sold at $20.

Rites of Passage is the proving grounds for up-and-coming young warriors who want to test their MMA skills in front of a smaller crowd and see whether they could make it to big no-holds barred fights inside the octagon.

Rookie warriors who win their fights would get the chance to earn an invitation to Trench Warz VIII, which is tentatively set on June 8.

For more information, call Alvarez at 483-4MMA or 483-4662.

Herman's Bakery to donate cookies at Valentine's Walk tomorrow

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Participants of tomorrow's 7th Annual Valentine's Walk will be in for a sweet treat as Herman's Modern Bakery has generously agreed to donate cookies for the event.

The 7th Annual Valentine's Walk is set for tomorrow, Feb. 9, and will start with a 6:30am registration at the Carolinian Utt across the Bank of Guam building in Garapan.

The kick-off for SAIWAI's 2008 season will offer 5- and 10-kilometer walking events and are held "in the spirit of Valentine's Day honoring love and lovers while focusing in enhancing the wellness of the heart and physical well-being through non-competitive walking."

The 5-km course will be from the Carolinian Utt to the Japanese Tank and back, while the 10-km route will have participants proceeding to the Oleai Bar and Grill and back.

Part of the proceeds from this year's 7th Annual Valentine's Walk of the Saipan Walking Association, Inc. will be donated to Wakai Nekko No Kai.

The Wakai Nekko No Kai floating university has been visiting the CNMI the past 39 years, but because of financial problems the 40th voyage this year has been scuttled.

However, Marianas Visitors Authority director J.M. Guerrero said Wakai Nekko No Kai Foundation president Hideo Kato will try for the 40th voyage next year.

SAIWAI would also be selling its very popular event T-shirts at a very cheap $2 a pop. All money raised from the T-shirt sales will go to Wakai Nekko No Kai.

Registration fee for tomorrow's 7th Annual Valentine's Walk is $6 with T-shirt and $3 without T-shirt, as part of these fees will once again go to the floating university.

Like in the past, the 2008 edition of the Valentine's Walk is sanctioned by IVV and as such SAIWAI and IVV members will receive credit for joining.

IVV has member walking clubs in the U.S., Canada, Brazil, Japan, South Korea, Turkey, Nepal, Australia, New Zealand, the CNMI, and 29 other European countries, including Germany.

For more information about 7th Annual Valentine's Walk and SAIWAI's other events for 2008, contact Mario Espeleta at 322-8876, Hiroko Tenorio at 322-8781, or Bea Quitugua at 285-1694.

SAIWAI was incorporated as a non-profit corporation on July 27, 2001 and was established to promote public health through non-competitive walking.

Two other events were held recently to raise fund for the floating university.

The Wakai Nekko No Kai Friendship Golf Tournament was held last Jan. 23 at the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort. Guerero said he hopes the golf tourney would raise an additional $5,000.

Three weekends ago, organizers of the 2008 Winter Festival of Runs put aside 10 percent of registration fees, amounting to $500, to the foundation.

In addition, local students are helping out by selling T-shirts and selling them for $20 each all over the island.

Chelus cools down Red Torch, 19-1

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Ton Magofna homered and Dave Santos had four RBIs to help Chelus cool down Red Torch, 19-1, in last Sunday's match in the 2007 season of the Men's Masters 40-and-Up Softball League.

The league, organized by the Belau Amateur Softball Association, is a slow-pitch softball tournament open to players 40 years old and above. Games are being played at the Dandan Elementary School Field.

The win was the sixth straight for Chelus to remain on top of the standings, while handing Red Torch its third loss in six games to tie Seabridge from third to fourth place.

Salty Boyz is in second place with a 4-2 mark. MGD Rock Steady and PTI 83 both hold 2-4 cards while Kebloes has a 1-6 mark to complete the standings.

Magofna went 2-for-4 with a sixth-inning home run that highlighted Chelus' nine-run inning. He also scored two runs and had two RBIs.

Santos also went 2-for-4 had four RBIs and scored two runs. Twice he had two RBI singles in the game. Joe Salas went 3-for-4 with two runs and three RBIs.

Esang Olkeriil scored Red Torch's lone run when he reached home plate on a Morei Secharmidal single in the second inning.

In other games, PTI 83 cruised to a 12-2 triumph over Kebloes, while Seabridge eked out a 4-3 win over MGD Rock Steady.

Jess Omar, Larry Sebaklim, and Jack Diaz led PTI 83s offense combining for 7-for-8 in batting. Omar scored three runs with a triple while Sebaklim had two triples, two runs, and two RBIs. Diaz scored twice, had a double, and three RBIs.

Ton Rogolifoi had an RBI-double in the fourth inning to bring home Dominic Chong. Rogolifoi also scored on an Ace Yoshida RBI-single.

In the Seabridge-MGD Rock Steady match, Manny Tenorio pitched his team to victory as he ended the former's comeback bid in the top of the seventh.

Tenorio forced lead off batter Frank Camacho to fly-out at left field then Jack Reyes reached first base on a Reno Celis error.

Reyes was left stranded on base after Tenorio forced John Maratita to fly out at center then struck out Tony Reyes to end the game.

Volunteers wanted for Saipan Sportsfest

Organizers of the Saipan Sportsfest are looking for more volunteers that will help them in the 10-day event from March 7 to 16.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Heat send Shaq to Suns for Marion, Banks

The Phoenix Suns acquired Shaquille O'Neal in a stunning, blockbuster deal that sent four-time All-Star Shawn Marion and Marcus Banks to the Miami Heat.

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Hafadai stuns Hyatt, PIC cruises

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Marlon Bamba had his fourth career double-double to lead Hafadai Beach Hotel to a 100-88 upset win over last year's finalist Hyatt Regency Saipan in Wednesday's match in the 2nd Annual HANMI Cup Inter-Hotel Basketball League.

It was the first Wednesday night game of the hotel league at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium since games in the BANMI-Budweiser Cup Men's Islandwide Basketball League ended last week after crowning Rock Steady.

Bamba scattered 36 points and collared 17 rebounds to lead Hafadai to its third win in six games. He also had two assists, two steals, and blocked two shots.

More importantly, the win improved Hafadai's standing as it replaced Hyatt in fourth place while their victims slipped to fifth.

Bamba scored 10 of his game-high 36 points in the first quarter to help Hafadai establish an early double-digit deficit, 30-18. They settled for a 52-41 halftime lead and continued with their offensive onslaught in the third canto to keep Hyatt at bay heading into the payoff period.

Peter Iguel scored 16 of his 28 points in the second half to provide scoring support. Iguel also had seven rebounds, eight assists, a steal, and blocked three shots.

Big man Derrick Nedlic frolicked his way inside the paint to finish with 16 points, seven rebounds and two blocked shots. Michael Olaitiman added 11 markers, six assists, and three steals.

Speedy guard Bernard Aquino paced Hyatt with 28 points, five rebounds, and five steals, while Edmark Mendoza chipped in 19 markers and a season-high 19 rebounds and five steals.

Dexter Dillay and Steven Tenorio combined for 22 points, seven rebounds, three assists, and three steals.

In the first game, Pacific Islands Club cruised to an 89-59 win over Aquarius Beach Tower.

James Abuy scored 14 points to lead PIC's balanced scoring. He also had four rebounds and three assists as PIC nailed its fourth win in five games to strengthen its hold of third place behind leaders Fiesta-Grand and Aqua Resort Club's 5-1 slates.

The loss was the fifth straight for Aquarius in as many games as coach Kitz Barja could not find the right combination inside the court and they continue to struggle offensively and defensively this season.

PIC outplayed Aquarius in all departments enjoying a 53-33 edge in rebounds, a 20-9 advantage in assists, and a 9-5 lead in steals.

Derrick Tudela turned out another double-double performance with 13 points and 12 rebounds as well as having two assists and two steals. Butch Kaipat contributed 11 points.

The back court combination of Romy Baterina and Marino Pungilug combined for 16 points, four assists, and three steals as they completely outplayed their counterparts.

George Barbo was the lone bright

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JON PEREZ
Pacific Islands Club's Alfred Fernandez, center, splits the Aquarius Beach Tower defense in their 2nd Annual HANMI Cup Inter-Hotel Basketball League game Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

NMITA lines up events for the year

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association has lined up various on- and off-island events where they will be organizing or joining in from February to December.

First on the NMITA calendar is the Coconut Classic next weekend, which also signals the start of the tennis season. The event falls on President's Day

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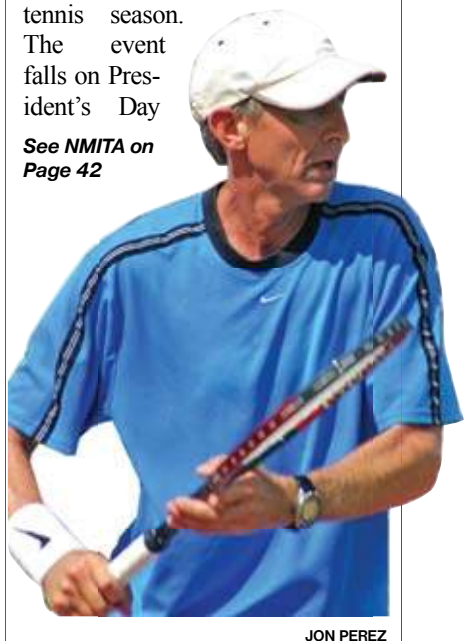

JON PEREZ
Jeff Race watches his shot in this file photo taken during his finals match against Ji Hoon Heo in last year's DFS Micronesian Tennis Tournament at the Pacific Islands Club tennis courts.

Rezne reaps praises from coaches

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Swimming sensation Rezne Wong is definitely one of the islands' top tankers as attested by the Marianas High School student breaking the CNMI record in the 100m breaststroke last Friday during the 3rd Annual Heptathlon Swim Meet.

During the event held at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi, the Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan star touched the tile in a time of 1:12.19 to eclipse the 1:12.21 registered by Dean Palacios in 2003.

His most recent success in the pool and the accolades that come before them were not missed by his past and current coaches—Bill and Jean Sakovich and Hiro Kimura.

"Rezne was and continues to be a good swimmer, he was always a hard worker, had good support from his parents, and has the potential to really excel in the right environment. He has the potential to be outstanding. Although he appears to specialize in freestyle and breaststroke, both Jeannie and I feel he has done well in all strokes and his IM (individual medley) is a strong event. We are looking forward to hearing more about him in international competition and felt sorry he was not able to compete in the recent Pacific Games," said Bill Sakovich in a recent email to the *Saipan Tribune*.

The Sakoviches founded the more established Saipan Swim Club 30 years ago and were enshrined in the NMASA Hall of Fame in 2003.

For his part, Tsunami Saipan head coach Kimura said he and Wong have one goal—and that is to compete in the Junior Olympics to be held in Tokyo, Japan this year.

"Rezne and I are dreaming to swim at the pool of Junior Olympics in Tokyo. Although Rezne went to the FINA World Championships a couple of years ago, he was still a young swimmer then," he said.

This summer, however, will be

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MARK RABAGO
Swimming sensation Rezne Wong poses in this file from last year's 4th Annual Marianas Tourism Education Council Tank 2 Tank Aquathon.

By VINCE STRAVINO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vince Stravino was a former member of both the 2007 NIMFA Men's National Team and NMIFA Board of Directors.

Unlikely emergence of NMIFA chronicled

For most of the population and football players on Saipan, the rapid rise and success of the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association goes mostly unnoticed. To the international footballing world, however, the local phenomenon is cause for substantial curiosity.

In Steve Menary's recent publication, *Outcasts: The Lands That FIFA Forgot* (Know The Score Books Limited, London, 2007), an entire chapter is based on the unlikely emergence of NMIFA to join the world community of soccer-crazed nations.

Menary has delicately studied and reviewed the attempts and universal frustrations of a collection of nations, localities, and tribes to advance up the ladder of international soccer to gain inclusion and monies from the world governing body for the sport, Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA). Admission into this fraternity ensures a quadrennial payout of FIFA largesse to the tune of $1 million per member every World Cup cycle to develop the sport

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